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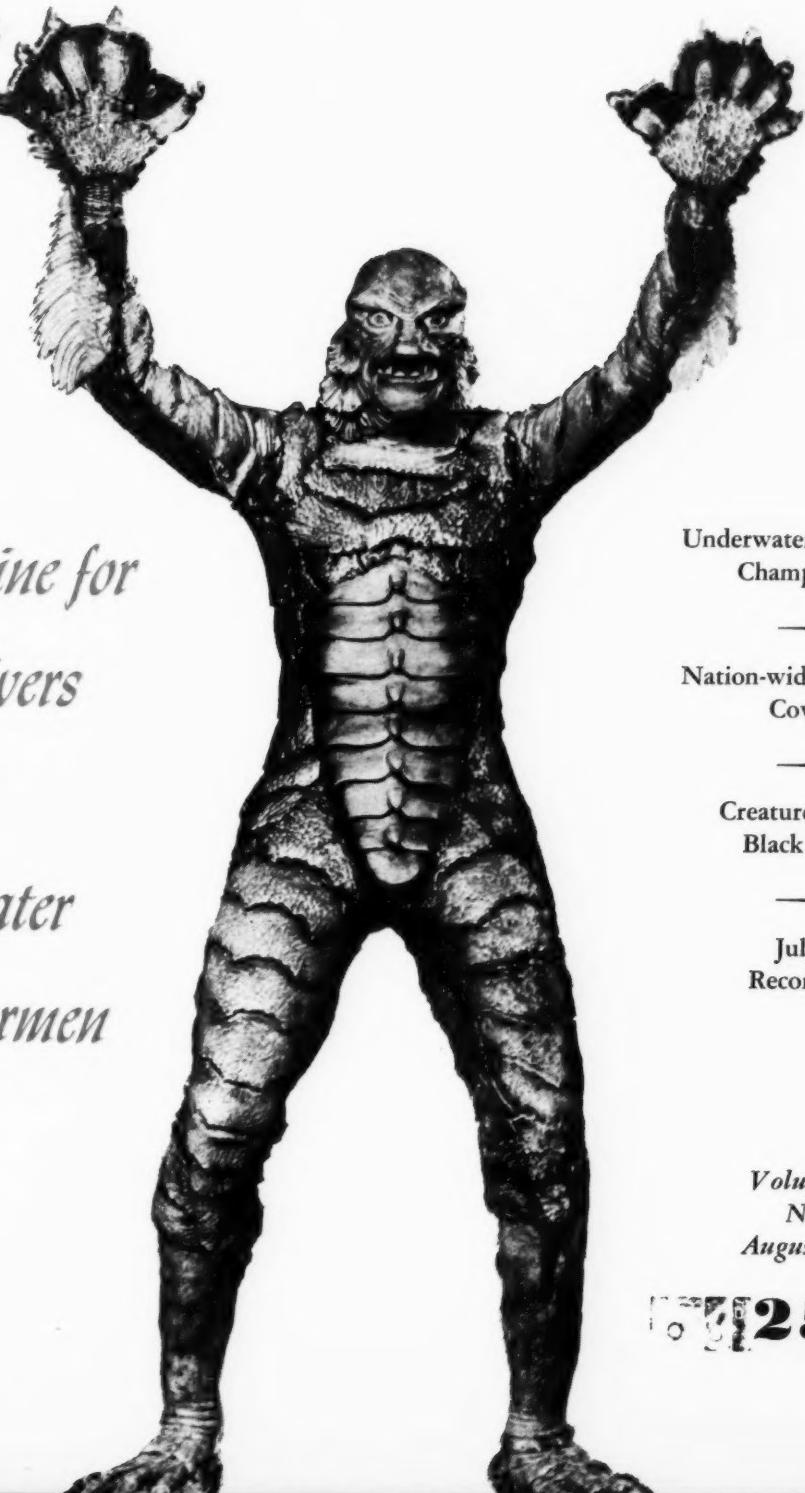
ART AND MUSIC

The SKIN DIVER

13 1954

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC

*A Magazine for
Skin Divers
and
Underwater
Spearfishermen*



Underwater Spearfishing
Championships

Nation-wide Underwater
Coverage

Creature from the
Black Lagoon

July 4th
Record Dive

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No. 8
August, 1954

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P. O. Box 128, Lynwood, California

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Oceanic Research Assoc.

315 Pearl Street Hartford, Connecticut

Skin Diving in The Bahamas

By ROBERT P. L. STRAUGHAN

Perhaps the clearest water and greatest abundance of undersea life along the entire Atlantic coast, is found in the Bahamas. These comparatively small islands are easily accessible from Miami, Fla., and practically anywhere you choose to go, you will find virgin waters.

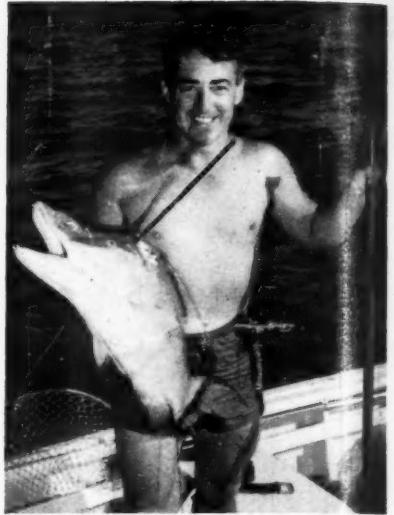
The water is warm nearly all year long and the variety of fish life is fantastic. It is a common sight to submerge near one of the many rocky islands and see thousands of big snapper, yellowtail, grunts, and groupers, all swimming about you, completely ignorant of your presence. The many coral fishes you see will amaze you and their beauty will linger with you long after you have returned home.

A great number of wrecks are scattered throughout the islands and one in particular is a showplace of its own. It is a vessel of about ninety feet in length and lies in about twenty feet of water. There are thousands of big snappers living inside its aging hulk and a huge jewfish makes his home there. But what makes the wreck so spectacular are the barracuda. There are over a thousand of the vicious devils within a three hundred foot radius of the ship and they range in size from three to five feet. Some of them rest along the bottom in rows like so many tenpins while the rest cruise about slowly, always ready to grab any fish that strays too far from the wreck.

Several enormous sharks frequent the wreck and one time when I swam up close to the big jewfish, he swam under a piece of wreckage and a ten foot shark swam out the other end.

Getting back to the barracudas, we gave them the acid test. We were fishing for snappers at the wreck and every time we hooked a fish, a cuda would come up and bite it in two. One of the guests hooked a cuda and another cuda came up and promptly bit it in two! These fish were hungry! They would swim right up to the stern of the boat. We stopped fishing, put on our bathing trunks and went over the side. I swam right to the bottom in amongst all the barracuda and I'll have to admit it was frightening. It was a sight one would not soon forget for I could look back and see a hundred or more of the fearsome looking creatures all swimming at me. They would work their huge jaws back and forth and many would have their mouths wide open. As I drew my legs in close, the cudas would close in from all sides. Some would make a quick dash at me stopping only a foot away and defy me to start something. After a while, I noticed that my legs were still intact and so decided they were going to spare me after all. We have since gone down to the same place with both aqua-lungs and just snorkles and so far have suffered no wounds.

Recently, however, I could almost retract that last statement. I was taking underwater movies in a remote part of the islands when I decided to turn around and see if anything was following me. As I turned, a huge eye met mine and I caught a quick glimpse of two enormous teeth close to my head. It was a



Robert P. L. Straughan

tremendous barracuda! I had been warned just an hour before by the boat captain who had said that down here, the black lip barracuda were nothing to fool with. He said they would snap up anything you threw out of the boat. Now I was in the water with one and the boat was at least six hundred feet away! This fellow meant business and he really scared me. He would swim off about three feet and make a quick turn. Then he'd head straight for me at top speed! I would lift up my legs and hold the camera in front so that his body would careen off the camera. He did this six times and each time he seemed to get madder. I shot movies and hope to have some terrific shots, but as the evil minded creature went by, I would turn rapidly about, taking a quick inventory of my arms and legs. In desperation, I took out my knife and tried to slash the silvery body, but as I was holding the camera and trying to keep in position, I could not aim accurately. I did make contact once and sent a few tiny scales flying but I doubt if the cuda even felt it. At any rate, he was not going to give up. To add to my trouble, I was running out of air and to swim to the boat with aqua-lung and camera would not be easy as there was a considerable tide running. Actually, I was getting a little desperate. I tried frightening the critter away but you might just as well throw whiskey bottles at the moon. He came ever closer and already I could picture myself hobbling about on one leg. My air supply was growing very weak so I had to chance a retreat. I turned on my back and swam slowly toward the boat. The cuda followed but as I drew closer to the boat, he disappeared. After I had climbed aboard, I bawled out everyone for not keeping an eye on me. Naturally they reduced the size of my barracuda to lugubrious proportions but I maintained it was over five feet long and should have pictures to back me up. It was an experience that will caution me in the future, for although I have encountered thousands of cudas, this was the first one to make a dangerous approach. It proves there are a few which can be dangerous and that everyone should be regarded as a potential threat.

A favorite fish for both palatability and size out here in the Bahamas is the grouper. The natives on Bimini call it "Bimini Steak" and

once you have tasted grouper chowder, you will be a born grouper hunter. You can find them around most ledges and large coral heads and in sizes to suit the skillet. One giant specimen was caught here that weighed over 160-lbs.! He was almost in the jewfish class. The ten pounders seem to be the best size for spearing, as they are easier to handle underwater and when they are filleted, they are a good size for broiling.

Recently I explored a wreck in an uninhabited section of the islands and found groupers in abundance that I hardly believed possible. There were hundreds of them and under every protecting piece of wreckage, I could see half a dozen or more huge heads eyeing me suspiciously. I shot four good-sized ones which would give the native boys each one, and then returned to the boat for the movie camera. The fish seemed to like me better without the gun as they came right up to me and I got some good shots. Even the largest of the grouper would come out of their dark hiding places to let me photograph them and they were so friendly and cooperative that I felt ashamed at having shot the ones I did. Whenever I do find a place so rich in life, I try to shoot exclusively with the camera. It is surprising how quickly the fishes will become accustomed to you, and if you make repeated trips to the same place, the fishes will remember you and become tamer each time. Especially if you feed them.

Shooting fishes holds little sport unless carried out in the right way. It certainly is a dirty trick to shoot a fish that has befriended you and has swam right up to the end of your gun. It is very unsportsmanlike and is about the same as shooting quail on the ground or a deer while it is sleeping. If you have to stalk your fish, then it becomes a sport. Sometimes a big grouper will give you quite a run for your money if you give him just half a chance. Then it becomes a battle of wits and if you can swim in a circle, and surprise your quarry from in back of a large rock, you will have that grouper chowder and some fun besides. I make an exception to this rule of shooting fish, however, and that is for my ever present followers, the barracuda. When these sneaky fellows approach silently from behind, I usually remain quiet until they are in range and then I let them have it. I have declared open war on them since my last encounter. These barracuda are a good fish for the trigger happy hunters to take out their wrath on instead of the colorful parrot and angelfishes. It would certainly be beneficial if some sort of conservation and sportsmanship rules could be set up and reprinted each month as a reminder to all good skin divers.

Incidentally, I have been experimenting with salt water fishes for the home aquarium and have had tremendous success. One of my aquaria has been set up for nearly a year and still contains the original water that I started with. With the help of continued research and experiment, I hope to publish a book on salt water aquariums so that everyone may keep a bit of the ocean in their home. That's one wonderful thing about skin diving; you can learn something new every day and it's a wide open field. ➤



RUBE ALLYN, popular Florida outdoor columnist for the St. Petersburg Times, gets his underwater information first hand. Rube has written several popular books on outboating and cruising. His articles on diving in his daily column have done much to publicize the sport of skin diving in central Florida. This photo was made by Burton McNeely with a Brownie Hawkeye camera in a plexiglas case at the caves in Crystal River, Fla. Super XX film was used. Rube went along with the St. Petersburg club, of which he is a member, to do a story for the magazine section of the Sunday paper. The Tampa Tridents were also present.

COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS

MEETING

AUGUST 11

McCulloch Motors Auditorium
6101 West Century, Los Angeles
8:00 P.M.



COVER PIC

THE "GILL-MAN", star of Universal's "Creature From the Black Lagoon" has held nationwide audiences on the edge of their seats, in each other's arms, etc., and certainly deserved a place on our cover. Richard Crosby places this monster before you on Page 4 with an ultra description of the movie and how the monster was created. If any of you readers are interested in a suit of this type, this one cost \$18,000.

FREDERIC DUMAS, a constant companion of Capt. J. Y. Cousteau in "The Silent World", prepares to descend with one of the first experimental models of the Aqua-Lung. Harper Bros.

CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

An Exclusive SKIN DIVER report on how the movie "Gill-Man" was made!

By RICHARD CROSBY

Many facts here are published for the first time. The whole story on how an underwater science-fiction thriller was produced.

It seems that the Universal-International studios created this one solely to entertain skin divers. As if underwater sports aren't exciting enough, Hollywood came up with a tailor-made monster with a nasty temper and an eye for a lovely lady for a thoroughly enjoyable bit of nonsensical commotion in 3-D. It seems also that every other minute someone is seen underwater, not giving the cast a chance to properly dry off, which is just as a skin divers' picture should be.

Their master creation of course is the Gill-Man. After a total consumption of 176 pounds of foam-rubber in all the experimental stages, plastic and hidden controls that had his gills spread as he opened his mouth and other specially designed fittings, the Gill-Man was born. It took over eight months, 76 body sketches, and 32 different head models to properly transform Ricou Browning and Ben Chapman into the creature resembling half-man, fish, and possibly some hereditary strains of lizard. The swimming skill of actor Ricou Browning also greatly contributed to the Gill-Man's possession of a character all its own; with its strange method of swimming in a rocking fashion from side to side. Ben Chapman was chosen for topside scenes because of his great stature, yet the audience was given to believe it was all one man.

In the upper reaches of the Amazon, the story goes, a claw is found imbedded in a limestone cliff. Frantic searching by the scientists refuses to reveal any more of the fossilized remains of the creature, so they search up the river to where he might have sedimented over the ages. This leads them into a river dead end called the Black Lagoon. Two young scientists go overside with Aqua-Lungs in search of remains on the bottom, when they run into a real live specimen. The personal appearance is an unhappy one since the creature watches them with curious caution, then belligerency. The scientists, armed now with still camera and light, the other carrying a powerful CO₂ speargun go after the stranger with mixed desire. One tries for pictures of him in true scientific fashion of wanting the thing in its natural state for study purposes, while the leader of the expedition wants him dead or alive at any cost for publicity purposes so as to gain further sponsorship of his group back home. Much unnecessary bickering and a fist-fight later they are forced to get tough with the creature when it, aroused to strange emotions when he sees his first woman swimming temptingly in his own Lagoon, tries to destroy all adversaries

in effort to get his hands on the shapely woman scientist. A South American native drug is tried to make the creature groggy. This seems to have limited effect on him, and several fights later he is subdued and imprisoned in a water tank built to hold him in check. He comes to and refuses to be checked, smashing the bamboo grating of his cell and escaping into the night. While other preparations are made to leave the Lagoon, the creature wastes no time in blocking the entrance to his domain with trees and branches so the boat, looking like a resurrected 'African Queen' left over from a previous picture of that name, cannot get out. Actor Richard Carlson goes overboard in skin diving gear again to clear the obstruction. The creature interferes, so he comes aboard to devise a drug-injecting assembly made out of a spare Aqua-Lung tank, a hose, and a valve and nozzle. The same drug called Rotenone is used again but in greater concentration. When confronted by the web-footed fellow again, while working to free the wreckage, he gives him a shot of milky-white substance, driving him away. Still, while the deck watch is unaware, the creature comes aboard and makes off with his prize, taking the girl down into the depths of his Lagoon and on through a passage which emerges inside an air-filled cavern. A scouting party follows and the creature is shot many times, then he stumbles back into the water and settles down.

The studio, however, will not let him die. The Gill-Man has become popular to the tune of well over \$2,000,000 in gross box-office receipts. Over this the company is pleasantly surprised and is now planning a sequel to the story, so the fascinating Gill-Man will not only live again, but the next time they promise he "will be much bigger than the original guy". So it seems we may yet see something approaching an underwater King Kong before they're through shooting. What the studio may never know is just why the Gill-Man was so popular with moviegoers. They may look towards the healthy growth in popularity of our sport and the SKIN DIVER magazine, for a telling example. Maybe its just the attraction of a good yarn involving skin divers and underwater adventure that made the picture so appealing. Monsters have come and monsters have gone on the screen, but when one appears that tries, even in science-fiction, to allegedly resemble a pre-skin diver hereditary missing link, then Hollywood has found favor among the countless thousands of new and veteran devotees to our sport. "Viva la Gill-Man!" says the studio, and let the people come back for seconds. The Gill-Man is apparently here to stay. ▶

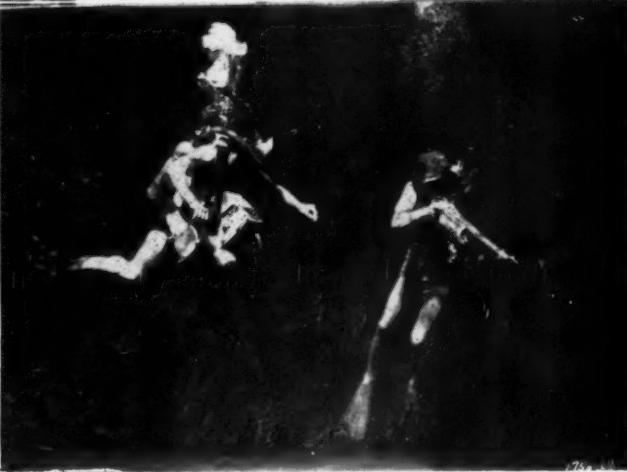


GILL-MAN MONSTER cowers on the bottom of a Florida lagoon for Hollywood's first underwater 3-D camera. This camera is self-pressurized by a miniature lung and has perfect weight neutrality, cameramen wear standard skin diving equipment. All pictures copyrighted, 1953, Universal Pictures Company, Inc., and furnished by the author.



TOP
female

CENTER



TOP LEFT—Underwater Gill-Man Ricou Browning, left, and Bud Westmore. Male and female plaster molds were made to satisfy designers and assure a perfect fit of the final rubber Gill-Man skin.

CENTER LEFT—Actress Julia Adams, familiar gear, and Richard Carlson, the movie's best performer.

BOTTOM LEFT—Note the fabulous range of visibility underwater in actual movie scene as two "diving scientists" search for Gill-Man fossil remains.

TOP RIGHT—Hollywood make-up master Bud Westmore, left, and lovely monster-designer Millicent Patrick, artist-actress and the first girl animator in history, formerly with Walt Disney studios. She thinks her 76th design chosen is "cute".

CENTER RIGHT—Part by part a monster is born, at the hands of skilled technicians.

BOTTOM RIGHT—Diver-actor Richard Carlson, left, with a reflex-type camera and light unit and Richard Denning are seen here with CO₂ gun. Standard skin diving gear was used throughout the pictures, many items advertised in the SKIN DIVER from time to time.

JULY 4th RECORD DIVE

By FRANK BICHLER
WATER-GILL RESEARCH TEAM

After many months of training, veteran diver Bob Lorenz topped the Australian free dive depth record by 26 feet, a total of 276 feet!

The Independence Day dive, at Avalon Bay, Catalina Island, was made from the cruiser El-Sea and was one of the many dives the team has made in preparation for Bob's coming bout with Neptune in which he'll attempt to exceed the unofficial world's record of 306 feet.

Bob was aided in this dive, not only by his research team, but also by the Water-Gill lung, a regulator of his own design. He has used the Water-Gill exclusively since its completion in January of this year, following three and a half years of development and experimentation.

In figure 1 can be seen the various depths at which team members stationed themselves along the descension line in order to assist Bob in this dive. This was carried out as follows: a free-sliding metal ring was attached to the descension line, then to Bob by a short length of light line, as a precaution against his straying away in the darkness below. Taped markers had been placed on the line at intervals of fifty feet, this was done to enable the assisting divers to maintain their correct positions. Team members followed each other in timed sequence, in order to conserve air. First, Bob descended with a light signal line attached. This was to be used twice, when he reached the 150 foot level on descent, and again at 200 feet on ascent. Upon reaching 150 feet, Bob signaled and diver #2 left the surface, one minute later, diver #3... After reaching the bottom, and returning to the 200 foot level, Bob was met by diver #2, who severed the line (the second signal) held by Richard Lorenz, who started the author, #4, on his way down with a spare decompression tank. This was to be used in the event that Bob's triple-tank unit had insufficient air remaining, with which to decompress at the 20 foot level, or as a precautionary measure against any possible mishap. Divers #5 and #6 were to remain on the surface to signal to the men below when their respective decompression periods were completed and to assist in any emergency.

To the 276 foot level of the descension line were attached these signal devices; an electric switch connected to a bell aboard the El-Sea

PICTURED HERE immediately after the deep dive that took Bob Lorenz to 46 fathoms or 276 feet Sunday, July 4, 1954, is the team of stand-by divers. Back row (l-r) Frank Bichler, Bob Lorenz, Richard Lorenz and Bill Troy; front row (l-r) Bob Ferris, Jim Cutting and Scotty Dietrich.



and a CO₂ buoyancy pack, which Bob was to inflate and release if the previously untested switch failed to operate. This proved to be the case. When the line had been lowered to a depth of 150 feet, water pressure actuated the switch and the bell began to ring... much to the irritation of the author, who'd spent considerable time in its construction. Bob was forced to rely solely upon the pack to inform us that he'd reached the bottom, this also failed to operate, so he carried it up by hand.

The only other unscheduled event was Bob's becoming chilled at the 20 foot level with over 15 minutes of decompression time remaining. The standby divers began to massage him in a vain attempt to make him more comfortable. This situation was relieved by the quick thinking of Al Hanson, standing by on another boat, who began pumping hot water through a hose which was lowered and placed inside Bob's suit. A big grin immediately appeared on his face... he relaxed, and it looked as if he planned to spend the day there. We were afraid he'd been made TOO comfortable and that we'd find ourselves hauling spare tanks until nightfall. A few moments after the decompression period had ended, however, Bob sensed an impending mutiny and surfaced without a struggle.

... About that hot water... ask Catalina's Al Hanson where he got it. We think it's a pretty good trick.

Upon surfacing, we boarded the El-Sea to add our congratulations to those of the witnesses. After a moment, when the excitement had subsided, we began questioning Bob, who replied that he was warm and felt no ill effects. To his knowledge, there were no symptoms of Narcosis and his mind had functioned normally throughout the dive. When asked about visibility, he said that it was very dark after 200 feet and until he neared the anchor. In the light reflected from the sandy bottom, he was able to see a little vegetation and a few shells but no fish. He did not see any, at least, in the short time it took him to learn that the CO₂ pack wouldn't work.

"I'd just begun to really feel the cold when I began the ascent," he said, "but signaled a

"cold but OK" to Troy (#2) who cut the line that would bring Frank (#4) with an extra tank. Then Troy and I began our slow climb and met Scotty (#3) at the 150 foot level. The three of us proceeded another 50 feet where I indicated that the spare tank was unnecessary and went on to decompress. Well, you know what happened then."

After a few ribald remarks about his chill, the divers began to compare notes and all agreed that the water was very clear, as is usual at Catalina. Several fish had been seen, none of particular interest. Certainly nothing to compare with the probably record sized White Sea Bass sighted the preceding day, when the entire team had gone to 175 feet in a practice dive... with no spears.

We were all pleased with the effectiveness of our system of hand signals and agreed that they had greatly facilitated this group dive. We'd had a few misgivings, prior to the dive, concerning the taped markers, but found that they were quite easily seen and remembered, so, with all things considered, we feel it was a successful dive.

The members of our research team, formed in the latter part of 1953, were chosen for previous diving experience as well as technical qualifications and include Bob Lorenz, director-designer; Bill Troy, information co-ordinator; "Scotty" Dietrich, who aids in the development of experimental diving devices; Bob Ferris, who handles public relations; Jim Cutting, our photographer; and the author, who specializes in electronic underwater devices. Also accompanying us on our dives is Bob's sister, Esther Lorenz, holder of the women's free dive depth record.

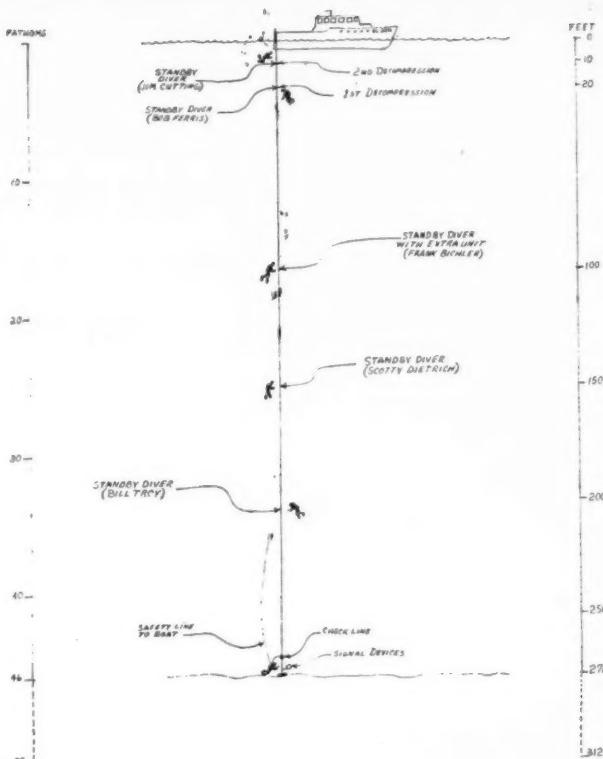
Among our interesting adventures have been visits to such wrecks as the 150 foot steamship "Valiant", which lies in 100 feet of water off Avalon Bay. This was the "Valiant's" first glimpse of skin divers and she can hardly have formed a good opinion of them since she is now minus a few anchors. We've also explored the hulk of the movie-famed "Bounty", where she rests, at 60 feet, near the Long Beach breakwater. We found the figurehead, masts, in fact the major part of her, had rotted

away in the murky water. In our many dives, we've salvaged a considerable variety of objects, from whale bone to money...in small quantities, of course. We've even explored the rubbish heap beneath the Santa Monica pier in an attempt to retrieve a weapon, at the request of local authorities.

Functioning as a team, we are primarily concerned with safer diving techniques rather than establishing records. The reports of skin diver accidents and casualties, along with records of deep dive attempts, are being carefully studied in an effort to avoid or minimize the dangers inherent in diving. In addition to this, we've been aided by various authorities in our quest for information on such physiological problems as Narcosis, Embolism, Oxygen Poisoning, etc. Orderly and precise teamwork, we find, enable us to more readily discover the safest methods to employ while submerged.

In the workshop at our headquarters, the Water-Gill Products, 2347 Lincoln Blvd. in Venice, California, we constantly experiment with our own designs and, through the cooperation of manufacturers, attempt to determine the relative merits of the equipment being offered skin divers. And we are, at present, perfecting a system of hand signals to be made available to divers at a later date. Also, to be available in the very near future, will be mimeographed dive log blanks, in duplicate. These may be filled out by any diver and one copy returned to be used in our information pool. Needless to say, we will gladly supply information or advice to anyone contacting us.

P.S. We need an artist-diver to round out the team. □



(First Decompression Time, 17 minutes; Second Decompression Time, 27 minutes.)

New!! THUNDERBOLT

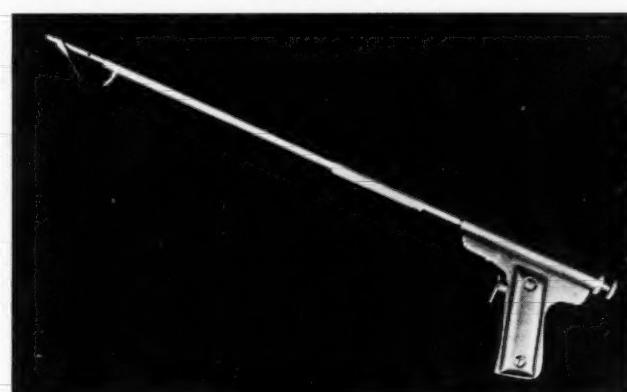
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the Hydrophone

By RICHARD CROSBY

NEW HORIZONS. The Chief of U. S. Naval Research announced the dedication June 21st of a new Navy Oceanography Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass. . . . Although this may be of interest only to Bathyscaphe pilots, diving bell jockeys, and other deep-diving underwater elevator operators, a new deep was found. Making encyclopedias and other textbooks obsolete now; that list Pacific's Midanao Deep as the bottom-most bottom of all bottoms, a new deep was reported by the Captain of the H.M.S. Herald while enroute to the Cape of Good Hope from Rio de Janeiro. It was discovered on October 30, 1953, and recorded at 7,706 fathoms or 46,236 feet! It may be significant for me to add that when Professor Piccard designed his first Bathyscaphe, it was for a theoretical maximum depth of 50,000 feet, although no depth like it was known. Both Bathyscaphes in existence now should be able to reach the new depth, assuming that Piccard's second one was built as strong if not stronger than the first. The Professor just recently announced a new design described as an underwater "diving helicopter" with a twin-rotor mechanism which seems in theory to tempt fate more strongly than his gasoline-filled hull which strikes this reporter as perhaps the safer of the two; the lifting liquid being incompressible, yet firmly trapped to pull the whole thing back to the surface. Sooner or later the big battle of the Bathyscaphes will probably take place. The highly pampered diving machines are bound to race one another down until the ocean's sub-cellars are glimpsed by man. This new deep should give them a good work-out if they don't implode trying.

ARMED DIVERS GO TO WORK. It seems everyone's picking on divers these days, but consider the plight of the Japanese divers. A war can leave many mental scars not easily forgotten within a decade. A news item recently detailed the situation between the Australians and the Japanese. The Aussies give the Japs full credit for being "unusually suited to work efficiently without equipment at considerable depths". Australian operators have long recognized this and sought entry permits for a select group of Japanese to work for them. But when it comes to the Japanese acting as operators and divers in their own private enterprise the situation calls for a well-armed fleet which left Japan on May 16th to resume diving operations after a long post-war absence. Twenty-four Japanese pearl-luggers, a mother ship, and a 200-ton armed patrol boat comprised the latest diving task force to drop anchor off Australia's Northern Reefs, the highly prized location of the mother-of-pearl industry. They are not exactly welcome, despite the treaty agreed to after much deliberation at The Hague, where Japanese emissaries pleaded for at least a limited diving permit so their home industry can be kept alive. This they were granted "without prejudice" by the Commonwealth, confined to an area as far as possible from Darwin, so no competition or conflict would arise between Jap and Aussie pearlers. No Jap ship would be allowed within ten miles of the mainland without emergency permission from the Australian government. The catch now limited to 1250 tons of shell compared to a prewar 5400 tons gathered per season. Although Japan protested that this denies her proper freedom of the seas, they accepted the strong terms as being better than no pearl beds at all. During the eight-year diplomatic controversy preceding the latest decision the Aussies pointed out that there is extreme bitterness and suspicion by the Australian people against anything Japanese. Japan returned only 7000 prisoners after admitting a

capture of 16,000 during the war. When they had their way extensive naval and patrol operations protected their divers working during pre-war days as they pleased around the Australian reefs. This free-hand resulted in complete disregard for conservation practices and all but depleted the oyster beds. The Aussies had to enforce strict regulations to restore growth and thus agreed to let Japanese pearlers operate only until November. Their first exploratory post-war diving trip was made last year. The area in question is the northern Australian oyster beds in the Arafura Sea, known as the world's most important pearl area. And so they sailed to dive in unfriendly waters, but armed to the teeth—just in case!

THE ISLAND RESORTS. A vacationer recently returned from the island of Haiti wrote, "Gone now, unfortunately, is Gustave, 'the Tarzan of the Sea', but his daily cruise in a glass-bottomed boat to the coral gardens explored by William Beebe is being carried on by able if less picturesque successors". If I may add, the man's last name is Della Valle . . . Many Caribbean island hotels now sponsor or encourage field trips and cruises teaching vacationers conch and lobster diving, reef exploring, spearfishing and underwater photography. Excursions aboard larger sailboats for divers are common . . . Bermuda, long famous for its wonderland of offshore reefs, now has active promoters encouraging their exploration by all age groups "from teen-age to the seventies". In the same breath a news report stated, "The 1954 successor to the glass-bottomed boats, the Aqua-Lung, has been preceded by enthusiastic reports of spearfishing possibilities." Then adding, "In fact the Legislature has just clamped strict restrictions on the use of the Aqua-Lung for spearfishing in order to conserve the colony's in-shore fisheries". What I call a pat-on-the-back and a slap-in-the-face all in one paragraph! Bermuda's reefs are at ideal diving depth, they say, averaging 25 feet.

ATLANTIS, FACT OR FICTION? From out of the realm of fantasy and legend that has persisted for 3000 years the materialization of the once-mythical Atlantis may be at hand. While popular belief and misunderstanding of ancient scripture placed the never-never land somewhere in

the south or central Atlantic, assuming that it was a "lost continent". Pastor Juergen Spanuth of Germany thought otherwise. After many years study of the writings of Plato as a hobby, the Pastor was sure that the ancient Greek could not have been all wet, but that the fault lay in the interpretation alone of his works. Applying a different unit of measure from that of earlier scholars he used meters instead of leagues, and that put Atlantis exactly five-and-one-half miles from Helgoland, of all places, in the North Sea. This rocky and desolate place has been used as a practice target by RAF bombers since the war and has been blasted constantly. The Germans used it for submarine pens during the war, and many a raider left its rocky confines in search of allied shipping. Bold enough to stand by his convictions, the Pastor hired a boat, a professional diver, and a stenographer to record the findings. Plato mentioned the distance should be measured from "a red rock in the sea", which unmistakably was the copper-rich rocks on the Helgoland. Soon after he descended, the diver reported, "I see a stone wall". The history-making find was measured and was located exactly where Plato said it was 30 centuries ago! The wall measured 30 meters thick, enclosing an oval 925 meters long and 300 meters wide. The diver felt and walked all around the wall, described by Plato as surrounding "a city". It seems the whole works settled and submerged during some pre-Christian catastrophe thought to have taken place between 1200 and 1300 B.C., more or less intact like the pirates open city of Port Royal which settled in the Caribbean in 1692. Before the Pastor could investigate further what the wall enclosed he ran out of funds and had to turn back and leave the fascinating discovery unexplored. This writer recalls suggesting to Dr. Hans Hass to undertake the follow-up of this mystery, but the Doctor declined, saying his schedule is all arranged for years ahead and cannot be changed. Then, early this year I recall reading a vague news item buried in the back pages of a newspaper that Pastor Spanuth plans to go back and finish the job some time this summer. Announcement neither specified depth or other conditions. I wish our foreign readers who may be more familiar with this whole incident would furnish further facts to the editor of the SKIN DIVER. □



RON MERKER, member of the Newport Sub-Mariners club and skin diving instructor - crew member aboard the Maray charter boat landed that 173-lb. Black Sea Bass at Goat Harbor, Catalina Island, July 3, 1954. Ron also took the first White Sea Bass aboard the Maray this year.

GERRY HUTH, skin diver living in Burbank, California, proudly displays a 40-lb. Grouper and a 60-lb. turtle speared in Guaymas, Mexico. Gerry was the hero for the day recently when he pulled Terry Lewis to the beach after his too near accident.

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CAPE VIDAL

By JOCK WOLHUTER
South Africa

Over the long week-end six members of the Durban Undersea Club set out to explore new waters of the Indian Ocean.

Cape Vidal was chosen as the rendezvous. On Thursday afternoon we waved adieu to the gay lights of Durban and were packed in my 3/4-ton Jeep truck with all gear, three lungs, a huge cylinder of compressed air to refill the lungs and although we only expected to be away four days we had enough water and rations for a month. Midnight Thursday saw us camped at "Mtubatuba", 190 miles from Durban and over bad country roads.

Friday morning we set off for "St. Lucia" and encountered a few Hippo in the estuary mouth practically on the beach. After breaking a rear side shaft on the jeep we eventually arrived at Cape Vidal. Here a reef of rocks runs out from the beach at an angle of 45° for about one-half mile or more with the result there is a beautiful bay for undersea fishermen. It is very difficult going to get to Cape Vidal and we are the first to explore the wild north coast.

Well, the water was a deep blue and beautifully calm, the first 15 minutes in we had speared a total of 52-lbs. of fish and had no one to give it to. We dived around until we tired. The visibility here was about 60-80 feet, fish were so plentiful that it was decided to spear only anything that was a good size. However, the biggest speared was an 18-lb. King Fish by Jack Wessels. We regretfully packed up on Monday morning and started our long trip back to Durban, which, from Cape Vidal, is 275 miles of tough going. ■



AN OLD wrecked coal barge on the beach, with jeep truck in background. South Africa.



OPEN LETTER FROM TERRY LEWIS

Dear Skin Diving Friend:

This letter is sort of an Epistle of Safety, so to speak. First, it is an apology. Then it is an exhortation to use good judgment. And it is a brief discussion of some ideas and of one man's opinions.

I am compelled to apologize for this reason: I am writing from a Veteran's Hospital, having been delivered here from a very serious diving "accident" at Laguna Beach, California, near the end of May. I apologize first to my fellow club members in the Los Angeles Neptunes, who have honored me with office from time to time in that hallowed group, and then to you, the skin diver in general. Because I took a selfish, unhumble and unscientific attitude that almost cost me my life.

You see, I had, because of various opinions garnered from certain individuals in our ranks, come to a partly selfish conclusion that the "buddy system" was unworkable and not altogether necessary. I, who never was the best swimmer, almost came thereby to the conclusion of my very existence on this earthly plane, save for the grace of God and the saving efforts of one Mr. Huth, from Burbank, who swam to my rescue in 30 feet of salt water. I lost an armbalete; got a rubber suit cut off me, and had a collapsed right lung (now OK, but it must be handled with care), all because I went out alone; for the first time (it only takes one, you know) I left my float behind; and, furthermore, I was a bit careless of my physical condition. Any ONE of these is a potential killer, remember; and not partial to individuals, whether anybody thinks so or not.

Which brings me right into the exhortation: science has a well-known method which consists of assembling facts, from which a conclusion is drawn. The other way, which we are free to use, but I must caution against, is that in which we draw our own conclusions, and then we search for support from facts, not always honestly interpreted. This is the bane of all good scientists. Here is the case in point—I tried to make the facts appear to support my argument against the "buddy system", but one glaring fact cancelled all room for argument—my near-death in the sea, to be exact. And I had stubbornly, out of my right to my opinion, held on to my false conclusion, even in public at a meeting of the Neptunes late last year. I guess I got proved the joker. So weigh the facts carefully: are the opinions worth a life? I think you all place the due value on your lives, so there's something to think over... ■

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES NEPTUNES

By HARRY KEEVER

The L. A. Neptunes regret the loss of our club treasurer and one of our best divers, Jack Nichols, who lost his life while diving at Catalina.

Jack's mother, Mrs. Ethel Nichols, his uncle, Glen Baker and his cousin, Bob Baker, want to express their appreciation to everyone who participated in searching for Jack. They especially want to thank all of the fellows who were on the Maray on Sunday, June 27th, the Los Angeles County Life Guards who searched from Sunday to Wednesday, and those on the Maray Wednesday, June 30th, when Ron Merker and Mart Toggweiler finally were successful in finding Jack's body 75 feet down. ■

LAURA STURGILL COUNCIL DIVER OF THE MONTH

By GENE DANIELS

Inasmuch as this is SKIN DIVERS JAMBOREE month, the choice for our council diver fell to the organizers of last year's Luau and this year's Jamboree. A flip of the coin gave us Laura Sturgill. Kate Miller who ran the show last year, and without whose help this year's Jamboree would never be, will headline this column in a forthcoming issue.

This is not really a story about a diver, or even a divers family. It is just an old fashioned "Open House". A meeting place, a filing cabinet for skin divers, friends and just plain people. This is the real Laura Sturgill. Her lovely home at 340 Calle de Andelucia, Redondo, is a focal point in the neighborhood. It is easily identified by one or more mildly disreputable looking divers trying to find space to relax on the front lawn between one or more boats, lungs and etc. . . Neighborhood youngsters are milling about begging for permission to cut their lawn, clean the boat, or do any of the chores that are connected with either housekeeping or skin diving. This may sound a big strange, but three of these kids in particular, Ray Kearns, Jim Coyle and Melvin French are such ardent skin divers and fans of both Charlie and Laura that they consider it a pleasure to be able to do something for them. Laura says, "We have received a tremendous thrill out of watching those boys growing up. Doing our small part in teaching these boys to dive can never repay what they have done for us." She has high hopes for them in the Junior Underwater Championships.

Pretty Laura Lee, 13, is also quite a sports-woman. Her ambition is to swim the Catalina Channel by the time she is 16. I forgot to ask if this was going to be accomplished on the surface or entirely underwater like a real skin diver should do it! Seven year old Richard plans to accompany her for protection!

This gal Laura is a "joining" woman. She is secretary of both the Southern Calif. Skin Divers and the Sea Urchins. As you all know the Southern Calif. Skin Divers won first place in the June 6th eliminations this year and the Nationals in 1951.

Getting on to the council activities, this is where Laura has proved to be a "doer", not just a talker. Our fabulous SKIN DIVERS JAMBOREE is completely her responsibility this year. I don't mean to imply that she does all the work because it would take a lot of fingers to count the wonderful workers we have this year. However, she is "boss lady" and doing a remarkable job. Her finger is in all the pies. The underwater competition, the wonderful diving prizes, the bathing beauty show, the ski show, the magician, the safety demonstration, complete with a helicopter (we hope), treasure hunt, skin divers fashion show, and even the hush-hush special event. All this has a bit of Laura's energy in it. And I might add, we are sure lucky it has. ■

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SKIN DIVING JAMBOREE — August 15, 1954. Adults, \$2.50. Marineland of the Pacific, Portuguese Bend, Calif. Advance ticket sale only.

QUICK SALE—Single cartridge, early model Barracuda CO2 gun - \$20.00. Accurate, dependable, fully rigged. Paul Hoss, 12905 S. Butler, Compton, California.

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TAMPA TRIDENTS—Members above are (l-r) Burton McNeely, 28-lb. Barracuda; Robert "Rusty" Jones, 23-lb. Barracuda, speared at the Clearwater wreck, Clearwater, Florida and Bill Brayton, new member of the Tridents, 36-lb. Cobia speared out of Tarpon Springs. Cobia is a new club record. Photos by Burton and Marge McNeely.

DERBY AND JAMBOREE PRIZE LIST FOR 1954

COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS
352 Smith St., Long Beach, California

The prizes for the 1954 Skin Diving Derby and Jamboree have not been placed in their categories as yet, this will be attended to after the Jamboree, August 15, 1954, but keep in mind that all prizes will be awarded in order of their retail value. Prizes and Donors are as follows:

U. S. DIVERS, one Junior Aqua-Lung and one Arbalette; WATERWEAR CO., one La Jolla Wet Suit and 25 dollars in cash; ROSE MARIE REID, one Glamour Bathing Suit (size 12 only), one ladies suit and six beach towels; WEFCO CO., one full suit, one hood and mask and one pair rubber socks; BEL-AQUA WATER SPORTS, one full suit; JERRY'S DIVING EQUIPMENT, \$25.00 gift certificate; CATALINA EQUIPMENT CO., one pair "Comet" water skis; THE DANIEL'S PHOTOGRAPHERS, 3 - \$10.00 picture orders; MEL'S AQUA SHOP, \$25.00 gift certificate.

DIVERS SUPPLY, one sport diver lung; KERR'S OF SANTA MONICA, one Brownie holiday underwater camera and case; JANTZEN KNITTING MILLS, one men's bathing suit and one ladies bathing suit; PANAMCO SALES, Neptune CO2

Gun, and one Arbalette; HOPE-PAGE ENG. CORP., 4-non-return valves; HEALTHWAYS, one P. M. 3 mask, one P. M. 3R mask, 3 pairs W. F. 8N fins, one A. K. 5-OG oval glass lens mask, one A. K. 5-RG RD. glass lens mask, 3- M2G aqua pro mask, one Honolulu swim pipe, one A-3 rubber covered flashlight, and 2-pairs F*2 swim fins; CRESSI PRODUCTS (DONATED BY HEALTHWAYS), one Capri snorkle, one pair Rondine fins, one Torpedine spring gun, one Ostrica S*1 mask.

GLOBE TROTTERS TRAVEL AGENCY, 2 round-trip tickets to Catalina via United Airlines; VOIT RUBBER CO., 6-pair flippers, and 6 face masks; D. L. DAVIS CO., one Albatross spring gun; CHARTER BOAT "MARAY", 10 trips to Catalina @ \$6.00; SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE, volumes I & II, library bound, and 5 subscriptions to the magazine; PRODON-FOOTE SPORTING GOODS, one spinning rod and reel; DOLPHIN MANUFACTURING CO., one rubber suit; TEX'S SPORTING GOODS, one torpedo gun; WYLIES SPORTING GOODS, \$25.00 gift certificate; CHARTER BOAT "HERBIE TOO", Club with most winners gets free charter trip for 20 members; CANOGA CORP., Aqua Bo.

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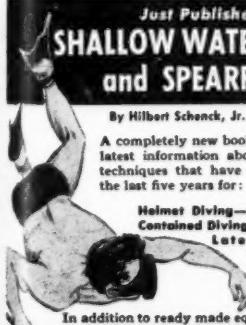
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YMCA TO HOLD SKIN DIVING INSTRUCTION CLASSES

By AL FISH

Physical Director, Y.M.C.A., Long Beach

Alarmed over the ever increasing stories in daily newspapers of skin divers suffering from various accidents, the Long Beach, California YMCA has organized classes to be held within the complete safety of the swimming pool to teach boys and men the fundamentals of skin diving. A nine weeks' class will be handled by Rory Page, volunteer aquatic instructor of the 'Y' running from July 19, to August 30. The classes will include instruction in the generalities of skin diving, equipment check, equipment use, swimming form and descent, first aid and water safety, and the value of the diving partner.

Instructor Page has been identified with skin diving for many years in the Long Beach area and is well qualified to handle this class. He was the founder of the skin diving club at the Long Beach Douglas Aircraft plant and is currently in the business of manufacturing a safety valve for underwater breathing apparatus.

Because of the limited space in the 'Y' pool, the class will necessarily have to be limited to some 25 persons. However, since the announcement of the class has been made we have been deluged with requests for advanced classes which will teach the rudiments of the under water breathing gear. It is possible that classes will be organized very shortly to handle these people.

The YMCA has long been known for its outstanding water safety program and is always eager to step in and develop a program that will be of service to the community. To date, the 'Y' is probably not quite up to the Red Cross in maintaining class instruction for skin divers, but we feel that the time has come when they will make full use of their facilities to offer this kind of instruction. Most Y's have a number of boys who are becoming interested in skin diving and a system of instruction should be devised to teach these boys the basic fundamentals prior to venturing forth to unknown waters. The Long Beach YMCA hopes to be one of the first in this area to offer this important service. ■

KEEP THE BEACH CLEAN and first aid kit, these items are standard equipment with the Men-O-Mar club. How about some of the rest of you organized divers getting that "Clean Beach" habit. Trash pickerupper pictured is "Reggie" Givens, daughter of club president Bob.



NEW YORK

LONG ISLAND DOLPHINS

By the "SNORKEL SNOOPER"

The location for this year's East Coast Underwater Spearfishing Championships is still undecided. The Championships Committee, headed by Donald Byrne, has started preliminary preparations for the meet. If you have any suggestions at all, or would like to offer your services for the day of the meet, see Don. The date is August 15th. The Nationals follow the meet and are to be held at Key West, Florida, Sunday, August 29th.

Let's not forget the Conservation Department Daily Diving Reports. Everyone should fully realize the importance of this information, to both the club and the New York State Conservation Department. Everyone should also realize the importance of the added support that the club will receive from this scientific institution. The blanks may be obtained from and returned to Erwin Ernst, Chairman of the Conservation Committee.

The club has fifty A.A.U. Individual Membership Applications. They may be gotten from Joe Wetzel. This is a "must" for all individuals interested in spearfishing competitions, collegiate or A.A.U. competition in all fields, and for those individuals desirous of maintaining their amateur standing. The fee for the A.A.U. is fifty cents.

As you know, members of the Dolphins have been appearing on T.V. shows for the past year. Our most recent representatives before the cameras were Joan Gilliar and George Knobloch. They were interviewed by Faye Emerson on her Friday night show. On the previous Monday morning Dick Ferg and Joe Wetzel were guests on the Herb Sheldon Show, where they exhibited and explained some spearfishing equipment and had an interesting chat with Mr. Sheldon.

Just a reminder that the "eyes of the world are on us", so be a little more courteous to hook and line fishermen, and spread a little good will to this other sporting group, since the best Public Relations men we have are our own members. ■

CALIFORNIA

MEN-O-MAR CLUB

By CHUCK NEWBURY

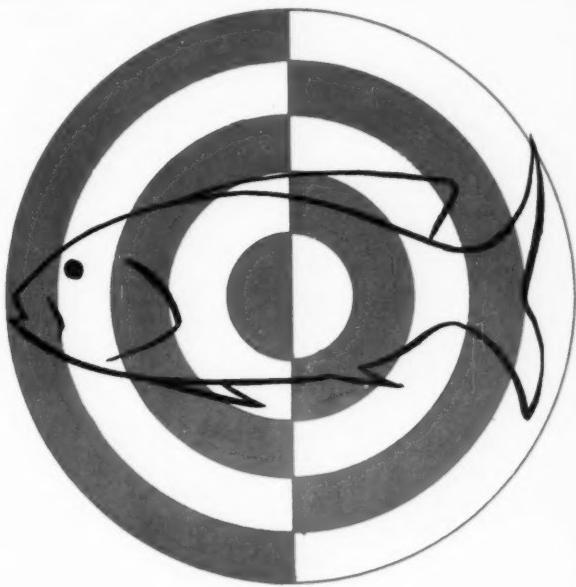
With the summer half gone, we have nothing spectacular to report. The average number of dives per month have brought in the average amount of game, but worlds of fun. Biggest specimen to date was the 80-lb. Ray, bagged by club president Bob Givens. Night diving has opened up a whole new field of interest for us. Scout Jack Wade has done a bang-up job in finding new locations for us to explore. Our next excursion is planned for the Morro Bay region.

We have gained a lot from our association with other divers, whether they are members of some club or "free-lance". Good sportsmanship is so prevalent that even the public seems to be impressed.

Speaking of the public, we, as a club, are grooming ourselves for whatever services that we may be able to perform in an emergency. Life saving is, of course, a must, and in addition, we adhere to the club rule to never be without a first-aid kit, which is naturally for the public's use, as well as our own. We are also stressing the importance of camp cleanliness, and by trying to be conscientious in this respect, we have made new friends, both in and out of diving circles. The trash receptacles shown in the accompanying picture was of our own creation, and is doing a lot of good in public relations as well as for its usefulness, where proper containers are not provided. The cloth "duffle bag" encloses a large paper bag such as is used to hold cement or plaster. When it is filled, we merely take the paper sack to the nearest trash container.

Before closing, we wish to compliment you on your very fine magazine. It is both interesting and educational. Even the advertisements are valuable to the diving clan, because they keep us informed on the new types of equipment being developed. ■

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Ted Warren Writes from Alaska

As far as spearfishing in Alaska is concerned, my trip has been a fizzle. Near Kodiak, where I got my bear, and hunted from a boat, I went in around a large rock. There was a little kelp that grew to the surface and the bottom was covered with a heavy leafy growth, but no fish. I also tried a sandy bay with the same result. Not even crabs. It was a little too early for the salmon that head up the streams for spawning.

Late in June Helen and I flew up to Kotzebue where I had hopes of spearing a beluga, or white whale. They come into Kotzebue Sound after the ice breaks up, where the Eskimos used to harpoon them from their umiaks and kayaks, but now shoot them from motor-boats. They also hunt hair seals and oogruks, or bearded seals, around the ice floes.

About ten miles across the bay from Kotzebue, we camped in a tent at the Eskimos temporary hunting village. From there we went out to the ice floes where I swam around and under some of the ice. Mud bottom and no fish. The water here is shallow for many miles out and visibility is poor.

One fellow shot a hair seal, and I, like a good retriever, swam out and got it. As I approached it, I saw a spectacular sight. It was bleeding freely from a head wound and as the blood was much heavier than the water, it appeared like a dense red cloud as it rolled and spread downward.

My dressing room was a tent, on the boat, with a gas stove in it.

One day the weather turned perfect and Frank Davidivics took us out in an outboard to try for a beluga whale. Out several miles we tied up with two boats of Eskimo hunters waiting for the whales to show up. In less than two hours they started to appear a long way out and soon we could see them scattered all over the southern horizon. After a couple had passed by, the Eskimos took after them and, of course, that ended any chance of more coming near us as they are afraid of the sound of a motor. I had been all set to take to the water if one appeared to be heading near us. By this time it was obvious that the odds were very much against having one come within range, especially with the clarity of the water so poor, so I decided I would shoot one instead.

We headed out to sea and twice we tried to track one down and failed. Later, we caught up with a pair and took after one of them. We were close enough to see him travelling under the surface. When he realized he was being chased it was remarkable how long it was before he surfaced for air. After that he surfaced more often. Here I stood on a bouncing boat, all decked out in a cold water suit, rigged

CALIFORNIA

REEF COMBERS OF BELLFLOWER

By BOB WICK

The Reef Combers are planning a trip to Guaymas. This will not be our first trip to Mexico as we have been to Punta Banda several times. If you have read our stories of these trips you have read of a catch of small fish and a few lobster. As you can probably guess, this is not what we go to Mexico for. Most of the time is spent in search of large fish. The small fish were shot for use around camp.

We've had some inquiries on obtaining membership in our club . . . right now we have a closed membership but we would really be glad to help any one start a club of their own. There are a lot of clubs that will go out to help you get started so it really isn't hard and you will have a lot of fun. ➤

up with Mae West float and lines, trying to shoot a beluga with a 300 magnum. My first shot hit him in the tail, the next two were low, but the fourth killed him outright, and he began to sink. Frank tried to harpoon it, but his line fouled up in the boat and the whale sank to the bottom. By the time I got my mask and snorkle on and got in the water and got my feet untangled from the lines on my speargun, we nearly lost the whale as there was quite a drift. It does not sound very sporting to go down and spear a dead whale, but it was the easiest way to get a line on it. Later on I stuck Frank's harpoon in it. We then tied it alongside the boat and started for Kotzebue. We sure made a work-horse out of that Johnson Seahorse.

At Kotzebue we were told it was the biggest one of the season. 14-ft, 3-in. long and 8-ft. in circumference. It was given to two needy Eskimo families.

One of the highlights of our trip north of the Arctic Circle, where the sun never set all the time we were there, was the huge mosquitoes. The Eskimos did not need to feed their sled dogs during mosquito season as they caught all they wanted. I felt sorry for the dogs, though, as they had to stay awake most of the time to protect themselves and killed far more than they could eat.

When we were out on the edge of the ice floe we saw a mosquito land quietly on the head of a hair seal that was watching us from the water. When he felt that bill hit his skull he dived so quickly the mosquito was jerked underwater. When it came to the surface it splashed around violently trying to take off. It never made it, though, as a large seagull came down and scooped it up.

While I was posing for pictures in my rubber suit out on the ice, one landed on my shoulder. When I felt the pain of its stab I flinched so violently my rubber suit bent its bill at such an angle it could not pull loose. My wife knocked it off with the tripod. Then we had to patch the puncture in my suit before I could go in again. ➤

TED WARREN, traveling Dolphin club member, originally intended to spear the whale, top pic. Finding this was impossible, he used a 300 magnum. Second photo shows Ted standing on an ice floe near Kotzebue in full frogman gear. Third photo is of an unborn whale—Eskimo woman is butchering parent.



CALIFORNIA**KELPTOMANIACS**

By MIKE HARROLD

Several things were omitted in last month's article that I would like to mention at this time. We of the Kelptomaniacs would like to extend our congratulations to the teams that qualified in the Pacific Coast Eliminations last June. Our team, comprised of Bert Williams, (who has been high point man in our inter-club competition meets for the second consecutive year), Bill Walker and myself, can only say, that we wish we had been as successful as our safety committee. I feel that they should be commended for the splendid way in which they handled the various safety problems, and for setting up the area. Two new members have been added to the club's roster, Cliff Dietrich and Russell Storkan, and they are expected to enliven the inter-club competition.

The club has made several excursions to the waters of Catalina, through the courtesy of skipper Gates Brown and his yacht, the Marion D. The most interesting feature of all the trips was an epic struggle between Beech Laswell and a Horn Shark. If you have been so unfortunate as to have made Mr. Laswells acquaintance, he has no doubt told you how he did battle with the Horn WHALE.

The Kelptomaniacs are having an inter-club meet at Cabrillo Beach, July 11. Prizes to be awarded for the largest shark, ray, abalone and edible fish.

We would appreciate it if all correspondence would be sent to our new mailing address:

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CALIFORNIA**CORAL CREEPERS**

(Formerly the BOTTOM BANDITS)

By LIONEL GARCIA

Due to several reasons and complaints from club members, the name of our club has been changed from Bottom Bandits to Coral Creepers, and I am no longer a Bandit, but a Creep? Oh well!

We're all glad that Bob Martin didn't go into the army after all and will stay with us for the rest of the summer. Our club is now fifteen members strong due to the acceptance of five new members who are Mr. Innocente Dorado, Mr. Ignacio Acosta, Tony Bautista, Lonnie Dennis, and Lawrence Medina. Good luck to all of them.

We have been going to Laguna this month and have caught several large fish including a 4-lb. Cabezone by V.P. Dick Fonseca, two 3-lb. Cabezone by Tony Bautista, and a 4-lb. Cabezone and a 5-lb. Corbina by Gil Dorado. Gil is one diver who has it easy. He speared the Corbina less than 5 minutes after he went into the water in a spot less than 6 ft. deep and less than fifteen feet from the shore! On July 6th, Lionel Garcia, Lino Salazar, and Chandu and Gil Dorado, went on a three day spearfishing trip to Ensenada. Although the water was only clear for one day, we all had a good time and caught several large Perch, a 4-lb. Stingray, about seven Shovelnose Sharks ranging between 5 and 10 lbs., and also spotted three small groupers. That water was really warm!

By the way, our club has written a song for skin divers entitled "THAT'S A MORAY", due to the presence of those friendly little animals in our local fishing spots. ➤

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CALIFORNIA**VAL-RAYS**

By ART MASON

Clear skies, balmy breezes and water temperature nearing the tepid mark means that summer is here. Thousands of snorkels can be seen cutting through the waters of the blue Pacific. Among the many groups enjoying these conditions will be the Val-Rays.

Bill Burroughs and myself enjoyed the abalone dive during Semana Nautica week at Carpinteria. Although we placed with the also-rans, we had a wonderful time. Water conditions were "par excellence". Our largest "ab" measured 6 1/4-in. One thing we noticed was the absence of so many clubs. Let's get with it, fellows!

On July 2, Bill Burroughs connected with a nice 5-lb. halibut at Flat Rock. Mighty fine eating! The following Sunday, Bill, Don Plummer, Joel Borne and Bob Rydgig had a great outing at Pt. Dume. The Point seems to hold the clearest water for the majority of our excursions. For example, Don came in with five nice bass from the kelp. Bill brought in an exceptionally large opal-eye. A week before, Bill Howlett scored with three nice cod at the point.

The July meeting went off as scheduled and showed a nice attendance. We were lucky to borrow the cut and un-cut KNXT newsreel of the Pacific Coast eliminations. We plan to have a copy made of it for the club. Also, it will add greatly to our scrap book because there are a number of shots of our team in it.

A prominent West Coast diver has been coaching Bill Burroughs on the side and in turn relaying some hot pointers on diving technique. Many thanks!

Well, as the diver said when he ran out of air at 40 fathoms, that's all, brother! ➤

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Autobiography of a Skin Diver

(By request of The SKIN DIVER Magazine)

By ARTHUR PINDER

To write the story of my skin diving is to write the story of my life for I cannot remember a time when skin diving was not my life. Perhaps it goes even further back than my own lifetime for my family for generations have been sea people, sailors, fishermen, the sea is in our blood.

Though swimming was equal to walking in my family it wasn't until 1936 when I was seven years old that my Dad started me and my two brothers on our spearfishing career. My father, I think, is one of the greatest spearfishermen ever. He was one of the first enthusiasts in Florida and even today, though he is past 50, he can hold his own with the majority of spearfishermen.

Everything I know about goggle fishing today I owe to what Dad taught me and what I have been able to learn for myself under his guidance. My brothers, Fred and Don, and my cousin, Charles Andrews, are the most outstanding spearfishermen I've ever seen and they too learned from Dad. The making of a spearfisherman is not only in his swimming and diving, though that of course is very important. But a really good spearfisherman is one who knows his fish, where they feed, what depths they seek, the type cover they like whether reef or wreck, in short the habits of the fish. In this all three excel.

I believe they would agree with me that by far the best fishing is to be found in the waters of the West Indies and around the Bahamas. I personally think the best place I have ever fished was off the island of Caicos in the West Indies but the fishing is excellent in the waters all through the Bahamas and West Indies. The clear, usually smooth, warm water and the variety of fish that abound make an unbeatable combination.

I have managed to catch a few record fish. One record, and one of my greatest experiences, came one day when I was spearfishing on the outer reef off Cape Florida in the Florida Keys. We were diving in about 45 feet of water when about 6 feet under the surface I spotted a good sized sail fish. He was very curious and as he swam up I let go with my spear. I was fortunate enough to hit him in the backbone so

ARTHUR PINDER, Underwater Athlete of the Year, shown here with one of his catches, a 584-lb. jewfish.

he was paralyzed with one shot. I grabbed him and swam him back to our boat. He measured 7 feet 5 inches and weighed in at 56 lbs., and I believe this will be a record since there is no recording of a sailfish being shot by a spearfisherman. I doubt that another chance like this will come along since sailfish are usually found in much deeper water and are generally a scary and fast-moving fish. It was a thrilling catch.

Another of my greatest spearfishing experiences also involved a possible record catch, this time a 337 lb. tiger shark. Again we were anchored off Cape Florida and I was sitting in our boat when I spotted the monster swimming toward the boat. I quietly slipped into the water and as he swam by me I let go with my spear, again hitting him right in the backbone. With this one I took no chance however and shot him several more times to



9-ft. 10-in. shark.



make sure he was dead before attempting to boat him. This may seem a little foolhardy to some but I had two things in my favor in that encounter, I was prepared for him, I knew I would have a chance for a good shot, and I knew I had a good exit.

In a reef or coral cave it would have been a different story for the shark can be a formidable opponent. However, I do not believe they are a great danger. They are a curious fish and when lured by blood will probably snap at almost anything in sight. As a general rule however they will not attack without some provocation. I believe they are more curious than dangerous but they are also very temperamental and unless you have some advantages as I did when spearing the tiger shark I would not recommend battling them.

Another of my most interesting — and terrifying — experiences involved a shark and occurred only a few days ago while I was fishing in the Keys. I shot a 90 lb. jew fish and as he sank to the bottom under a rocky shoal I dove down to put another spear in him. Unbeknownst to me a 10 ft. fish shark came in to investigate the blood and as I came up from under the rock he came in behind me and snapped, grazing me just enough to leave 5 well-defined tooth marks. I turned quickly, flailing him with my elbows and spear and my brother, who was also in the water, came up quickly to add reinforcements to the battle. A couple of good hits with elbows and fists, coupled with the sight and sound of my brother, was too much for Mr. Shark and he took off. We retrieved our jew fish.

A shark with his mind set on blood like that can be dangerous.

Though I have caught big fish, the sailfish and shark mentioned and a record 584 pound jewfish and 328 pound ray, I think by far the greatest sport is found in stalking a mutton snapper, a snook or a big black grouper. Though these fish seldom weigh more than 30 pounds tops they put up more of a fight pound for pound than any fish I've ever seen. Following them, trying for a shot, through coral caves and shoals, is truly a sporting experience. In contrast to the big fish that are powerful but slower these small beauties are quick, fast and not easy to spear. Besides that they make very good eating.

All of my fish are shot with a Hawaiian sling and free spear which I make myself. My fishing boat is a 21 foot Chris-Craft that my Dad and I made. Normally I do not use artificial breathing aids because conditions in our waters are such that they are not as necessary as they might be in other parts.

Closely allied with spearfishing and a great sport in my book is diving turtles. Cruising in the boat off the sandy bottom we spot the green and loggerhead turtles swimming in the water. A good dive will land you right on his back and as you grab him by the back of the neck under the shell you pull him up as he pulls down. However, as long as he is headed up, up he must go and it's a thrilling fight for awhile until he's finally tired enough to be boated. Sometimes that can take several hours and in the meantime you get quite a ride.

In addition to spearfishing and turtle diving I've also been interested in the promotion of the sport and have been in several competitions. I have been on teams that won two state meets and was on the team that took second place in the nationals last year. Last year I received the Helms athlete of the year award. At present I am very interested in the Miami Beach Tritons, an up and coming organization for the promotion of google fishing.

I have brought my outdoor interest into my home with a salt water aquarium and on almost every trip I bring back some specimen for the collection in addition to any sea life I can find for food for the fish. It is a fascinating hobby.

At present I am just finishing up an enlistment in the U. S. Coast Guard. After that's up in June I don't know. Perhaps I'll go back to my old spot on the Miami Beach patrol. But whatever I do it won't be too far from spearfishing. Nothing could offer more beauty, excitement and suspense. It's the world's greatest sport and I hope that in some way I can help it grow. ▶

**FLORIDA
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Election of officers was held June 20 in Riviera Beach, Florida. Plans for State "Cuda Cup" tournament were drawn up. The meet will be held at Key West, July 18, 1954. New officers above are: (seated) left to right, Rusty Jones, Tampa, Secretary-Treasurer; John Masters, Tampa, Vice-President; Burton McNeely, Tampa, President; Walter Lohman, Miami, Chairman of Board; Harold Aycock, West Palm Beach, Publicity Director; (standing) left to right, Harold Gordon, West Palm Beach, Director; and Eric Johannson, Dania, Director. Officers not pictured are Fred Logan, Director and William Cox, Director.

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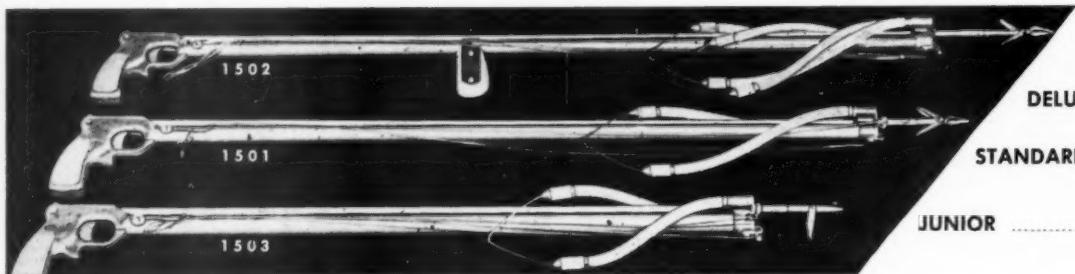
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FLORIDA SKIN DIVERS ASSOCIATION

LETTER TO I.U.S.A. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE

By RICHARD G. TAYLOR

Dear Sirs:

Permit us to attempt to briefly state some of the feelings and opinions of many of the Florida Clubs relative to the prospective National Championships in Key West, Florida, August 29, 1954.

Your letter of April 25, 1954, to Harold Aycock, forwarded to Walter Lohmann and myself and subsequently studied by many of us, has caused us a great deal of concern. Let us make our position clear.

None of us have any desire to make the national championships anything but an absolutely fair contest, based on physical ability, prowess and skill as the chief determinative factor. Unfortunately, the tournament as is now being planned, will not possibly result in a winning team on such standards.

The expert advice you have received about Florida spearfishing is either given to you by persons lacking in knowledge or perhaps individuals assuming that they are informed on a past basis of knowledge of spearfishing elsewhere (e.g. Calif.).

We have great quantities of chubs, black margates, white margates, parrot fish and other useless fish that far exceed seven pounds in weight. It is common for example, to encounter large numbers of blue-green parrot fish in the twenty-five pound class. Therefore, your "automatic solution" is no solution at all. These rules, permitting the shooting of such fish, will increase the total weight by a large margin of inedible, useless fish.

Let me comment on the grouper situation. Grouper is the commonest, most accessible fish on the reefs of Florida. There is little danger connected to the apprehension of same. Grouper are everywhere and range from small size to 60-70 pound black grouper. The elimination of groupers in a Florida Keys spearfishing tournament is akin to a rule permitting each contestant the use of one swim fin.

Relative to weight limits I think you will agree that 7 pounds is a good sized fish, particularly in the Key West area. Inasmuch as the average snapper, jack, et cetera, is less than 7 pounds, it would be fairer and better to at least let the average fish be enterable rather than letting the contestant who lucked-on to the unusual fish be the winner. As to the maximum limit, there is no doubt that same is unreasonable and highly discriminative, e.g. A contestant could very reasonably spear a grouper, amberjack or barracuda and spend forty-five minutes wrestling with the fish getting him out of a ledge, et cetera, and then lose all credit by subsequently finding the fish weighed forty-one pounds. You will certainly agree that such could not be fair.

Next, I must comment on the float proposition. Floats are not a practical method of working the reefs, due to tide, wind and the many

miles of reef, but if same must be used to satisfy the committee, of course our teams will comply. There are, however, better and fairer methods of competition. It is noted you do not wish to permit contestants to get out of the water. Obviously, none of the committee has seen what a 30-35 pound barracuda or amberjack or similar fish can do to a nice spear gun. Those fish are quite capable of bending 6 feet $\frac{1}{2}$ " steel spears into a complete circle. Do you know any contestants that could straighten same under water? Further, the lifting of a barracuda up over one's head to put said fish in a boat is one of the best ways I know to get the contestant bitten, cut or injured.

The matter of amateurs and professionals is of little concern as you have wisely summed up the matter in your letter. None of us have any "bones to pick" with any rules about prizes. Whatever is decreed along that line will be one hundred percent satisfactory.

We must, however, make a protest when a championship tournament is planned through error, mis-advice or mistake in such a manner as to be unreasonable and arbitrary.

A meet that will select a winning team on the basis of luck as much as physical prowess, regulated by rules drawn without consideration of the actual factors involved, and designed to create ill-will and public disfavor can hardly be enthusiastically welcomed by the many of us who have diligently worked and desire to preserve and develop the sport of underwater spearfishing. I assure you, that we have no wish to force any decision and we do not feel that we are in a "do as the Romans do" position. However, inasmuch as we are the Romans and know what they have to face, don't you think same is worthy of consideration?

It is sincerely hoped that the National Championships Committee will consider this matter seriously with the view of making the tournament a fairer and better determinative one. There is no reason why this meet cannot be enthusiastically supported by all, adding to the popularity of skin diving and selecting champions who will be universally acknowledged as such.

(Signed:)

Clearwater Coral Kings, by Geo. F. Grisinger, Jr., M.D.

Neptune Club, Miami, by W. John Quinn.

Ft. Lauderdale Divers League by Bud Welje, Secretary.

Orlando Otters by William A. Coe.

Miami Beach Tritons by Charles F. Andrews.

Reef Divers, Ft. Pierce, Fla., by Claude C. Davis.

Tampa Trident Club, Tampa, Fla., by Robert P. "Lester" Jones, President.

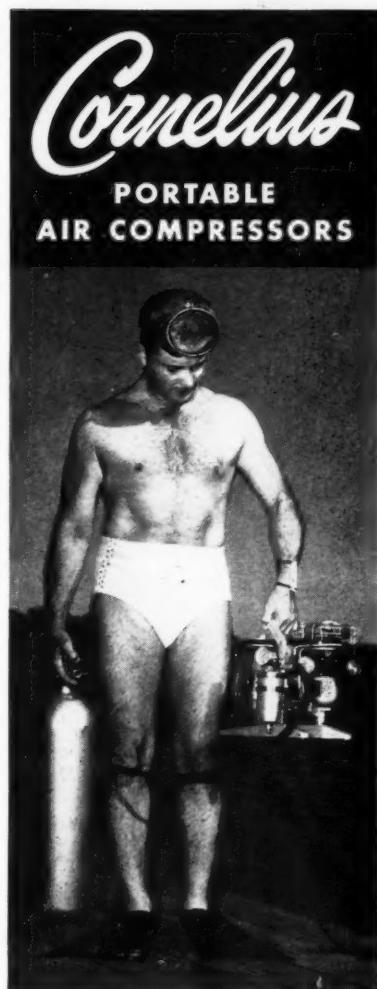
Gulfstream Underwater Hunters, Dania, Fla. by Eric Johansson, Edwin D. Townsend.

Palm Beach Fin Divers by Harold M. Gordon, President.

St. Petersburg Underwater Club by Robert Wilcott.

Mask & Fin Association by J. H. Seak, Jr.

Mask & Fin Association by W. L. Keaper. —



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UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

(With excerpts from the Los Angeles "Firemen's Grapevine" by HAROLD SCOTT, May, 1954.)

Not many of us, with the possible exception of those who spend most of their off-duty hours in that cool, mysterious wonderful beneath the surface of the sea, know that our own Neptune Club played a large part in organizing the first California inter-club competition in skin diving.

As a matter of fact, unless the average reader of the *Grapevine* were an enthusiast in the sports field — and many of them do confess to having glanced through its pages once or twice, and to have paused with more than passing interest on the pages headed "Sports" — he would never have known of the original Neptune Club, first organized on the Los Angeles Fire Department and guided for several years by James Miller and Ralph Davis, both of whom should receive a lion's share of the credit for helping to found the organization. Most of the original members of that group are still around.

Later, the original club divided and now there are several other clubs in existence under the name, some of them even saving members of the original club. Such names as Los Angeles Neptunes, West Los Angeles Neptunes, Long Beach Neptunes, etc., now hold sway in the field of Underwater Spearfishing.

A phone call to Ralph Davis, who is still very much active in the sport, proved to be the start of a very interesting story. I was amazed at the amount of work that Ralph does in this sport not only as a participant but as an official of the International Underwater Spearfishing Association. Not only does he get in the water with the best of them but he also maintains a year-round correspondence with all the associate clubs around the world. Then, too, his work as General Chairman of the National Championships Committee, getting ready for the forthcoming Regional and National Championships keeps him rather busy. Right at the moment Ralph is getting ready for the Pacific Coast Senior Championships in August of this year. Incidentally, in all the work that Ralph does in these organizations and, let's face it, his job is a big one, he is ably assisted by Mrs. Davis, who is also Secretary-Treasurer of the International Association.

The International Underwater Spearfishing Association was formed in 1950 with the following aims:

To encourage the sport of underwater spearfishing as recreation and as a potential source of scientific knowledge.

To contribute scientific data to institutions and individuals.

To maintain standardized rules for the sport.

To keep an attested and up to date chart of world record catches for underwater spearfishing.

The story of this organization really goes back to Samoa in 1933 when Ralph Davis tried his first underwater spearfishing. Between then and 1940, when he joined the fire department,

he dove in such remote places as Aruba and Haiti in the Caribbean; Cumana and Lake Maracaibo in South America; and in Japan, Australia and Hawaii.

The year 1933 will always be remembered in spearfishing circles as is 1903 in the history of aviation. That was the year that Commander De Corlieu of France invented a workable fin that placed in the hands of humans the key to the underwater world.

By 1938 this fin that is the basis for a literal migration into the sea, could be found in the United States. It was introduced to Ralph Davis by Benjamin Alexander, who later also became a member of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

In 1940, Ralph introduced skin diving to dozens of people, among them James Miller of the department. He was one of the most enthusiastic and in 1943 started the L.A. Fire Department Neptunes that was later to be opened to the public under the name of the Los Angeles Neptunes. Charter members of the original first department group were: James Miller, Ralph Davis, Searle Bennett, David Jeffery, James Chabot, Gerald Lowe, Russell Lunn, Charles Kriss, Roger Monk, John Meyers, Charles Pierce, Peter Pucio and Don Wilde. James Miller was voted the first president.

By 1950, enough skin divers in different countries had signified their interest in launching an association on an international basis that the International Underwater Spearfishing Association was formed. Headquarters was set up at the Los Angeles County Museum in Exposition Park and a Board consisting of such well-known scientists as Dr. Hubbs, Dr. Hill and Dr. Walker was formed to sift the data obtained. Three basic rules were defined for the sporting side to attract the great number of skin divers:

1. The underwater spearfisherman must be swimming under the water at the time the fish is speared.

2. The use of artificial breathing apparatus excludes claims for U.S.A. records.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

All Central California clubs are invited to compete in the Central California Underwater Spearfishing Championships, **August 15, 1954**. The winning team of this meet, the first held in that region, will be eligible to compete in the National Championships at Key West, Florida, August 29, 1954. Registration Headquarters will be located in the **Del Monte Lodge**, on the 17-mile Drive, (Highway 1) in the Monterey area. The meet will be held somewhere in the neighborhood of the Registration Headquarters, depending upon the water conditions. Interested clubs should contact Chairman Dave Campbell, 168 South 26th Street, San Jose 27, California, prior to the meet date.

3. No one may touch any part of the underwater spearfisherman, or any part of the equipment already in use at any stage of the catch, or assist in making the catch.

From the ranks of these sportsmen, interested in world's records, would come information on species of fish little known to science. With standardized rules, a basis for competitive sport was also available and under the first aim of the Association the National Underwater Spearfishing championships were formed by the I.U.S.A.

The maintenance of an attested and up to date listing of World Records for the sport of Underwater Spearfishing presented a much more involved problem than that encountered by the Rod and Reel sportsmen. They selected as their listing most of the pelagic fish that have world-wide distribution and are generally found in deep water.

Underwater spearfishermen generally hunt along the shore and their catches rarely include the pelagic species. However, the inshore waters, particularly the rough littoral, is an unusually productive area and one about which science knows the least. Therefore it was the logical place to direct our activities.

It was nearly four years before the Underwater Spearfishing World Record listing took on a semblance of any form that contained species that would have meaning to the average Underwater Spearfisherman. It was necessary and continues so as new areas open, to ask our representatives in each area to select ten species in their region most generally taken by their Underwater Spearfishermen. This listing is then sent to Museum Headquarters and correlated with the species from other countries and species not already listed are added.

It was necessary to draw a line excluding the thousands of smaller species and accept for the World Record Listing, salt water fishes of fifteen pounds or more. Species about which more information is needed such as the Groupers, Manta Ray and Mobula, Parrotfish and Triggerfish were also added and gratifying results are being obtained.

Some of the local records verified by the I.U.S.A. are a 64-lb. White Sea Bass, a 310-lb. Black Sea Bass, a 28-lb. Sheepshead, a 36-lb. Halibut and a 36-lb. Yellowtail.

No officer of the International Underwater Spearfishing Association or member of its Executive Board may hold a World Record for Underwater Spearfishing.

Disputed records are judged by the sports side of the Board, consisting of Dick Hyland, John Weismuller, Earl Warren, Jr. and Ralph Davis.

To be properly verified, a possible record is sent to the Los Angeles County Museum Headquarters where it is checked and initiated by Dr. Hill. In turn it is then taken to Dr. Walker at U.C.L.A. where the photograph and affidavit form is studied, initialed and then sent to Dr. Hubbs at the Scripps Institution of

(Continued on Page 37)

CUDA CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sponsored by the Florida Skin Divers Association
and the City of Key West
Held at Key West, Florida

Winners, 1953—**THE NEPTUNES**, Miami; Charles Andrews, Arthur Pinder and Walter Dietel.
1954—July 18, Key West—1st Place, MIAMI BEACH TRITONS, 24½ points; 2nd Place, Neptunes (Miami), 17 points; tie for 3rd Place, 6 points each, West Palm Beach Fin Divers and St. Petersburg Club. 6 man teams. Rough water, poor visibility.

EAST COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sponsored by the East Coast Underwater Spearfishing Association and the Long Island Dolphins

Winning Team, 1953—**PORPOISE CLUB**, Bernard Nistad, Bill Carew and Guy DeAuguste; 52-lbs. Montauk Point, Long Island, New York.

1954—Meet will be held AUGUST 15, clubs interested should contact Chairman Joe Wetzel, 8601 91st St., Woodhaven, N. Y.

PACIFIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

AUGUST 1, 1954, LAGUNA BEACH, CALIF.

The following teams and members qualified in the Pacific Coast Eliminations, June 5 and 6, 1954, to compete in the Championships:

MUIRMEN (Defending Champions) — Bill Wilcox, Frank Hops, Dick Jappe.

DOLPHINS — Pat O'Malley, Chuck Blakeslee, Paul Hoss.

SOUTHERN CALIF. SKIN DIVERS — Chuck Sturgill, Bud Abernathy, Bob Hartley.

MARLINS — Gibby Dear, Roy Wilbur, Ed Barstow.

SERPENTS — Ed Gray, Mel Hostetter, Bill Bue.

NISEI KELPTANGERS — Bill Yamachika, Sam Ichikawa, Hank Nonokawa.

LONG BEACH NEPTUNES — Dr. Washbon, Herb Sampson, Dr. Mathison.

CHULA VISTA SEA SPOOKS — Wesley Andrew, Bob Johnston, Robert Stipp.

SEA STALKERS — Ross Van Meter, Virgil Wakefield, Robert Sperry.

CARPINTERIA HELL DIVERS — Charles Sylvester, Dr. Warren Sears, John Hubb.

SNORKELS — Jack Dudley, George Hart, John Jens.

LA JOLLA SKINSTERS — Art Wilkinson, Frank Leinhauapel, Mike Carnahan.

BOTTOM SCRATCHERS — Jim Stewart, Conrad Limbaugh, Beau Smith.

REEF ROGUES — John Resek, Marshall Shackelford, Cliff Maas.

SHARKS UNDERWATER ADVENTURERS — Chuck Vallance, Roy Young, John Carroll.

SEA COMBERS — Bob Young, Larry Nelson, Ted Heineman.

SEA DOWNERS — Bill Hazen, Marty Altman, Dick Hall.

WINNERS OF PREVIOUS PACIFIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

1950 **DOLPHINS** — Paul Hoss, Keith Kummerfeld, Ken Kummerfeld; 38 ½-lbs.

1951 **SO. CALIF. SKIN DIVERS** — Fred Kettles, Chas. Sturgill, Bud Abernathy; 72-lbs.

1952 **SEA DOWNERS** — Bill Hazen, Marty Altman, Pat O'Mally; 64-lbs., 15 ¾-oz.

1953 **MUIRMEN** — Bill Wilcox, Frank Hops, Dick Jappe; 52-lbs., 3-oz.

1954 NATIONAL UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sponsored by
Florida Skin Divers Association and the City of Key West
in cooperation and with the Rules of the
International Underwater Spearfishing Association
Under Sanction of the A.A.U.

AUGUST 29, 1954

RULES

1. NATIONAL UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS are open to the regional 3 - man champion team from each area of the United States. Only teams of Clubs officially organized 3 months prior to the date of the competition are eligible. Not open to unattached divers.
 2. REGISTRATION: On board Nationals Ship Headquarters August 29, 1954, or with the Florida Skin Divers Association, 437 Monroe Drive, West Palm Beach, Florida. Application should be made as early as possible.
 3. RULES of the International Underwater Spearfishing Association shall be strictly adhered to:
(a) Swimming under the water; (b) No artificial breathing apparatus; (c) No other swimmer helping (Exception: Members of a Team may help each other during competition.)
 4. PLACE: Competition to be held near Key West, Florida.
 5. DIVING AREA: To be decided on board Nationals Ship Headquarters on the day of the competition, August 29, 1954 by the National Championships Committee and the Florida Skin Divers Association.
 6. TEAMS: Each eligible Club may enter a 3-man Team. No substitute or alternate. Divers may come out and go into the water again as often as they wish, provided they report aboard one of the official boats each time. (Inboard motor cruisers with A.A.U. Judge, designated as official).
 7. FEE: \$3.00 per team member. All money to be used for expenses of the Championships.
 8. DURATION: Competition shall last 4 hours.
 9. OFFICIALS: Judges, Timekeeper, Weighmaster - A.A.U. officiating.
 10. SIGNALS: Competition will begin with official "Go" signal.
Colored flag on Nationals Ship Headquarters will indicate time one-half hour prior to end of competition.
Patrol Boat horn will be blown intermittently beginning 15 minutes before end of competition, at which time all contestants must be aboard one of the official boats. (Official boats shall be considered as inboard motors).
 11. DISQUALIFICATIONS: Apply to individual diver and catch, not to entire team.
(a) Any infraction of competition rules; (b) Leaving specified diving area; (c) Chumming, alcohol, rough play; (d) Failure to be aboard one of the official boats at end of competition; (e) Commercialism.
- DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.
- Outboard motors may be used on each rowboat guarding each team.
12. FLOATS: Any type that can be pushed by the divers are allowed. No cars. No motors. Divers permitted to use only official boats in the field for depositing their catch. Catch may be put in official boats only from the water and by team members only.
Official outboard equipped rowboats to be used only to hold fish after start of contest except when necessary to rescue and transport sick or injured contestants to the large boats.
 13. SAFETY: No motorized equipment will be permitted, other than the official Patrol Boats.
First Aid and Doctor available on Nationals Ship Headquarters.
Divers are cautioned to be extra careful in the handling of equipment at all times.
 14. LIABILITY: A Waiver-of-Responsibility must be signed by each competitor at time of Registration.
 15. SCALES: Certified scales are to be used.
 16. WEIGHING: Weighing will be done by the Judges.
Catch will be weighed as soon as brought to Ship Headquarters.
CATCH MUST CONFORM WITH THE FLORIDA FISH & GAME LAWS.
All fish taken must be brought to Ship Headquarters.
No catch under 6 inches in length will be weighed.
Catch will be kept in separate containers for each Club. The Florida Skin Divers Association will be held responsible for the useful disposal of the fish.
 17. DECISION OF WINNERS: The heaviest aggregate weight of fish will decide Team Winners (excluding sharks, skates, rays, eels & Jewfish).
The largest single fish, shark, skate, ray or Jewfish (eels excluded) will decide the Individual Winner.
- DECISION OF THE JUDGES WILL BE FINAL.
18. TROPHIES & AWARDS for National Championships:
1st Place — Owen Churchill National Perpetual Trophy, and Owen Churchill Individual Trophies (3).
1st Place — Helms Athletic Foundation Medals (3) one to each member of team.
2nd Place —
3rd Place —
Award: Individual. Largest single catch.
Award: Individual. Largest individual aggregate. (For Athlete of the Year).
 19. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES: To be made at end of competition on August 29, 1954.
 20. PUBLICITY: Photographers and Press will be allowed in the field only in special boats with authorization of National Championships Committee, the Florida Skin Divers Association and the City of Key West.
 21. COMMERCIALISM: The Underwater Spearfishing Championships is an amateur competition. Commercial publicity, advertising of products or trade-names will not be allowed at the Championships, or anywhere in connection with the Championships except as provided under A.A.U. Regulations.
Any Club violating this rule will be disqualified.

NATIONAL UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING
CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE OF THE I.U.S.A.
Ralph N. Davis, General Chairman

Report from Paradise

P A R A D I S E centered around Doris Hakman. This campsite is approximately 13 miles north of Bacochibampo, Mexico.



By DORIS HAKMAN

When one has had a pleasant experience, he somehow feels the urge to share it with others. While this could hardly be accomplished on location, perhaps a few words of description would serve the same purpose.

Our camp was near a spot we called "Grouper Gorge". Some palm trees to shade us from the desert heat, a jug of water and many pounds of turtle steak, inspired us to stay longer than we had planned. We left most of the unnecessary camping gear at San Carlos Bay near Guaymas and shuttled from there by boat the things we needed for overnight at any place we might find where the fishing was unusual. Loaded with seven humans and equipment, the boat sat rather low in the water, but with the exception of once when the spark plugs went out, our water transportation was one of our greatest pleasures! The group consisted of Jack Chase, Ronnie Church, Duane Buckowitch, Harry Hakman, Doris Hakman and Hakman children. About fifteen miles north of Bacochibampo Bay, near a reef, we jumped in the

water and found so many grouper in the gorges that the above mentioned name we tacked on the area was almost inadequate. It was in a lagoon a few yards away that we beached our boat and unloaded the sleeping bags and drinking water. After eating a can of beef stew mixed with lobster, turtle and fish, our appetites were so satisfied that we nearly denounced civilization.

The Baya are spooky and, at this time of the year, usually pretty deep, but they are also curious and when we kept still they came within range. Large grouper bones were soon a common sight around camp with Ronnie Church contributing most of them. One morning he came up the beach with one that weighed 93 pounds. It must have taken a lot of endurance on Ron's part since he was quite far out when he speared the fish. Without a floater, the tug-of-war under water was pretty tiring, but he looked anything but tired when he pulled the grouper up on the sand! Jack and Bucky took most of the fish back to trade for dinners which we would take advantage of when we returned. After a day of diving we'd light a fire, mix some weird fish concoctions, and sit in quiet contentment watching the moon rise with the first star on the left and a saguaro cactus silhouetted against the coming dark. Night fall and rest; morning and activity.

There was an element of adventure one time when we were beaching the boat and a wave caught us. It tipped the boat over and I found it strangely dark for such a bright day, until I realized that I was trapped underneath, something like a brownie in a dishpan with a cup over him. However, except for a slight case of claustrophobia and a little damage to our nautical pride, there was no harm done and we soon had ourselves and the gear in order. We had been going out each day to points further north, but one morning Harry rolled out of his sleeping bag and decided to have a quick swim. He was back in two seconds. About five yards from shore all the fish in the ocean, it seemed, had come in, apparently attracted by the entrails of one of Ron's turtles that had been thrown in the night before. We could walk out, take about two strokes, and find so many fish that we felt crowded. Twice, what I

thought was a log in the distance turned out to be a huge grouper. Harry, Ronnie and Jack were getting twenty to forty-five pounder using Arbaletes with $\frac{1}{2}$ shafts and Ron was using his Arbalete when he shot the large Baya, so generally speaking, everyone's equipment proved very satisfactory. I have mentioned only Grouper, but we saw some permit and there were plenty of pargo, golden cabrillo, parrot fish and chopas. The eels and rays are larger than usual in this area and schools of little puffer fish and angel fish add to the scenery along with hundreds of other varieties of small, pretty species. We spent quite some time on underwater photography, with pleasing results!

It is strange to sit on the beach or in the boat and see all the activity above the water. The pigmy mantas doing full gainers above the surface, demonstrating their showmanship to anyone interested, and whole schools of bait breaking the water constantly pursued by something extremely interested, made an intriguing nature study. Resting against a palm tree with feet propped up on a back-pack, it was possible for us to look straight ahead and see sailfish making beautiful silver arcs against a brilliant blue background or we could raise our eyes slightly and gaze at continuous formations of pelicans, framed into a picture by the waving palms. Most of the time tho', we would drive ourselves to exhaustion by staying in the water from morning 'till night, spearing, exploring, or taking pictures. Our days were filled with so much action that as the time drew near to leave we regretted not having allowed more days for poking around the reefs and islands, but then we should leave something for our next visit, and in closing I would like to add that after our third trip in a year, we are more convinced than ever that the gulf waters are truly a diver's paradise!

Bon mot:

*To find a spot that's like a dream
Is not so hard as it might seem
Just set your compass south and west
And pick the cove that you like best
Check on details if you wish
But first make sure there's lots of fish!*



RON CHURCH and Grouper, Guaymas, Mex.

ASSOCIAÇÃO BRASILEIRA de CACA SUBMARINA

By VICTOR D. WELLISCH

Rio de Janeiro, Junho de 1954

Mr. Ralph Davis
President of IUSA

Dear Mr. Davis:

We are in the end of our spearfishing season of which we had wonderful results in the last two months. One National Championship and two other important competitions had been programmed. More than two tons of fish were caught during two days competitions in our National.

For the first time we use the new chart of points. This chart is the result of months of hard work. After three years of competition, we notice that a team that had a very good performance, and having caught a great number of good fish, would lose the competition just because one team had enough luck to catch a big and heavy jewfish. This of course, if the competition is scored by the highest total in kilos. The points are organized and conceded according to the following criterium: A beautiful catch even though lighter than some other, can equalise with it, due to the quality of the fish caught. This is the only way to get a conclusion in considering 200 kilos of jewfish and 25 kilos of black grouper, both with the value of about 80 points. This is by multiplying 200 kilos by the coefficient 0.41 and 25 kilos by 3.5. Here in Brazil we consider a 200 kilos jewfish equal with a 25 kilos grouper. I think

that for the USA the chart must be different.

The results were wonderful, in spite of the Barracuda team with 628 kilos, the Marimbas team with only 450 kilos won the Championship (they caught 3 sharks—Carcharias limbatis).

Detailed results were the following:

First place — "MARIMBAS" with 1,244 points. Team: Arnaldo Borges, Joao Borges Neto, Oscar Sjodt, Carlos Borges, Enio Fontes.

Second place — "BARRACUDA" with 900 points. Team: Alberto Martins, Abel Gazio, Paulo Saboya, Luiz Araujo, Jose Carlos de Britto, Gert Friedrich.

Third place — "ARPOADOR" with 863 points. Team: Pericles Memoria, Rubens Torres, Luiz Carlos Vital, George Grande, Bruno Heryman, Lelis de Souza.

4th place "Harmonia" with 371 points.
5th place "Black Marlin" with 206 points.
6th place "Budiao Negro" with 201 points.
7th place "Vermelhao" with 110 points.
8th place "Ribeira" with 107 points.
9th place "Kon Tiki" with 104 points.
10th place "Anequim" with 89 points.
11th place "Samarangue" with 75 points.
12th place "Frades" with 73 points.
13th place "Glu" with 24 points.
14th place "Panair" with 0 points.

The big fish that we recorded together with the name of the spearfishing men are:

BADEJO — Micteroperca bonaci — Black Grouper - 36 kg. - R. Torres.

CACAO — Carcharias limbatis — Shark - 91 kg. - Oscar Sjodset.

LAMBARU — Ginglymostoma cirratum — Nurse Shark - 110 kg. - J. Elias.

CARANHO — Lutianus sp. — Snapper - 4 kg. - J. Nat.

CAVALA — Scomberomorus cavala — King Mackerel - 3 kg. - L. Vital.



RECORD Dog Fish, 7-lb., 2-oz., 29½" long, 12" girth. Speared by Robert Travis Keagie, Big Island, Lake Minnetonka, Minn., Sunday, June 13, 1954. AN OLD wrecked coal barge on the beach, with jeep

GAROUPE — Epinephelus Guaza — Grouper - 10 kg. - L. S. Martins.

MERO — Promicrops guttatus — Jewfish - 201 kg. - Abel Gazio.

OLHO DE BOI — Seriola Lalandi — Amberjack - 3 kg. - P. Memoria.

ROBALO — Centropomus undecimalis — Snook - 12 kg. - P. Saboya.

ROMBUDO — Trachinotus Goodei — 13 kg. - L. Vital.

SARGO — Archosargus — 6 kg. - E. L. Medeiros. ■

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THE MUIRMEN — Frank Hops, Bill Wilcox and Dick Jappe. 1953 National Underwater Spearfishing Champions and 1953 Pacific Coast Underwater Spearfishing Champions. Trophies, cups and plaques pictured were won during the 1953 meets and the Muirmen vow to repeat in 1954.



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OF CALIFORNIA

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Schedule of Events . . .

0:00 A.M.—Jamboree Opens
1:00 A.M.—Introduction by Woody Dimel
1:30 A.M.—Skin Divers Parade
2:00 - 2:00 P.M.—Skin Diving Contest
1:00 - 1:30 P.M.—Beautiful Girls in Beautiful Swim Suits, presented by Rose Marie Reid; Commentary by Alicia Kay Smith.

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CALIFORNIA

SEA SPOOKS OF CHULA VISTA

By WALTER OTTE

The SEA SPOOKS had a great trip to Punta Banda, Mexico the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July. Eight members showed up along with three prospective members. A very nice turn out for such a long trip. Please let me say that I don't recommend any one making that trip at night. That road is certainly a nightmare in the day light.

Several fine Lingcod of about 15 to 18 lbs. were caught by Bob Stipp, Louie (Casanova) George and Chester Bright. Wes Andrews spearred the largest fish, a 22-lb. Sheepshead. Jim Schwartz spotted a large Jew fish, believed to be in the neighborhood of 100 lbs., but didn't attempt to take him with his light gear. However, Jim got his address and says that next trip he'll certainly be "Spookin'" the area. Nothing really big, but plenty of the medium type. Just right to make the trip lots of fun.

Sunday morning the divers having lungs took them out for training and familiarization. Connie Horned surprised herself by making a 100 foot dive under the careful guidance of Chester Bright. Chet is a very competent lung man and he has used the lung for several years. His experience is a valuable asset to the Club.

July 10th a trip to the Coronado Islands is being planned. This should be a great trip. We always have great luck out there.

Our thanks to Joe Schear for his time and effort put into the life saving course. The final exams will be taken at the next meeting July 13. Our goal, "every SEA SPOOK a Senior Red Cross Life Saver!"

Spearfishing at Catalina

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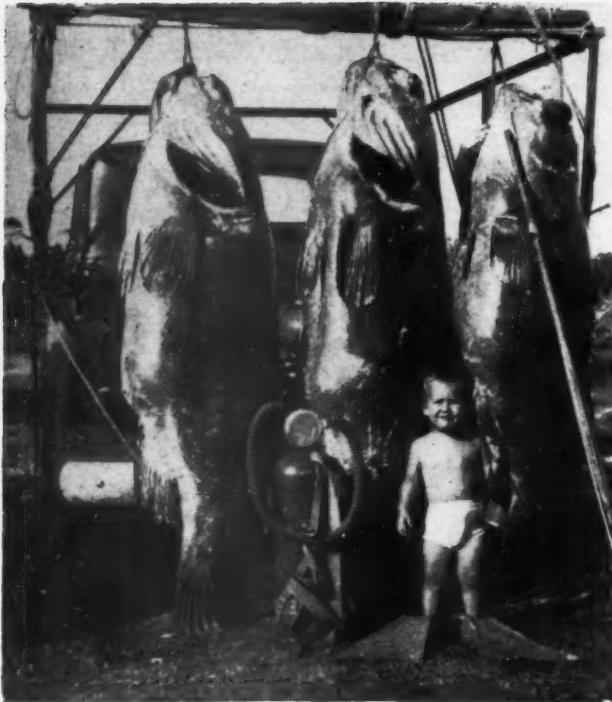
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FLORIDA BEAUTIES — These three Jewfish were speared by members of the Pensacola Fin Divers, Coman Rothrock and Buddy Roberts. Marion Van Horn was along to help land the catch made near Beacon Hill, Florida. The young underwater adventurer in the photo is Mike Van Horn.

FLORIDA

APALACHEE AQUA CLUB By EDWARD MILLER

The Apalachee Aqua Club held its Charter meeting June 17th, a record crowd attended and 50 persons signed up as members, the second meeting brought the number up to 65 through the intense publicity campaign now in progress. It is hoped the club will soon have 100 members.

The first program featured two underwater films on exploration and spearfishing. The Club elected officers as follows:

Ed Miller, President; Dr. A. J. Henry, Vice President; Bob Tinney, Secretary-Treasurer.

An extremely active program is planned for the summer, to include a mapping trip to chart the best spots for spearfishing, a club outing and contest, several movies for training and use on Television, and a program of public education and public relations. The Movie now being made features the raising of Civil War Cannon and will be shown to television stations in this area. The next film will be a training film on spearfishing and diving. These films will be available at a later date for rental or sale to other clubs. The club is also making plans to participate in clearing rough fish from fresh water as a public service. ➤

CALIFORNIA

N. A. A. SEA BARBS By HERB SLATER

Sunday, July 12, 5:30 A.M., the sky was overcast, and a gentle breeze was blowing as the club boarded the "Pugg", a 40 foot diesel boat, which would take us to Catalina for a day of enjoyable diving. Among the many pieces of equipment were six Aqua Lungs, and five new home-made Neoprene "wet" suits.

Our club is highly safety conscious and with our 12 week skin diving course just recently completed, we were set on practicing what we preached. We set up a sign in and out buddy system and everyone cooperated 100%.

The sun came out early and the water was beautifully clear and warm. There were many fish and Abalone spotted, but most of the fish were quite small and the gang picked out only enough for supper. The Abalone brought in were all good sized and everyone got their limit. Quite a few Lobster were spotted and as soon as the season opens we are going back for them.

This months business meeting will be held next Wednesday and will include movies and refreshments along with the formal business portion.

Next Sunday, the 18th, we plan a return trip to Catalina and expect to bag some big ones. We are also planning some over-night excursions for the future, along with treasure hunts and other forms of contests. ➤



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Spearfishing In Grenada

By
FRED PRESSEY

My wife and I discovered this underwater wonderland in the British West Indies when we were here last year on a short vacation. We sought out and met several of the local spearfishermen who generously showed us their favorite fishing spots and taught us several tricks of the trade which are practiced in this area. However it was not necessary to be an accomplished sportsman here, for curious fish swam slowly over the nearby reefs and even my wife, a novice in the game, was able to spear a large number of the brightly colored parrot fish. I was delighted with the number of crevasses, mackerel, barracuda and other pelagic fish which darted out of the blue to see what I was. To me these are the best sport fish since they must be shot on the wing and therefore demand marksmanship and fast swimming as well as skillful handling during the tussle which follows. Grouper and other rock fish on the other hand are not difficult to hit once spotted and it seems that brute force in dislodging them from their caves is the main pre-requisite in landing these fellows. Also, these pelagic fish make for the best eating in this part of the world; especially the barracuda which is shunned in many parts of the U. S.

This year we were fortunate enough to be able to begin our permanent residence here and in this paradise we have learned and seen a lot which we would like to impart to the readers of SKIN DIVER in the hopes that it will add to their enjoyment of the sport.

First of all, it would be good to get out a map and look at our island. Maps are invaluable to the spearfisherman with limited time — one who cannot look at the bottom of the sea all over the world. Maps not only show the geographic location of things above the water, but give a pretty good picture of the topography of the land under it. You will find that GRENADE is an island, 100 miles north of Trinidad, at 12 degrees N. Latitude. Twenty miles long and twelve miles wide, a varied terrain of mountains, plains, valleys and bluffs, the island is surrounded by the clearest of Caribbean waters which average a comfortable 78 degrees the year round. Coral reefs, featuring cliffs of stag coral, lawns of nubbin coral, and forests of fire coral surround the island giving homes to countless fish. Most of the fishing is done in shallow water of not more than twenty feet deep, except on the Northern coast where the largest fish are found. There the water reaches a depth of 100 feet.

Last year most of the Grenada boys fished with hand spears or improvised rubber band guns. Only recently have the French and Italian equipment reached the island. We were surprised to see the advances made in technique during our absence while we were arranging our affairs in the United States.

Whereas last year we had actually met six people interested in this underwater sport, this year we have met and fished with over twenty ardent sportsmen; some local and some im-

ported. There is no actual club here, but the spirit of comradeship which pervades all groups of underwater beachcombers makes the actual organization seem unnecessary as yet. Women as well as men take part in the sport here and three of our best lobsterers are of the fairer sex. The species of lobster found here is the clawless "spiny" type and consequently presents a less formidable but just as delicious prey.

Expeditions are usually arranged twice a week. On Thursday afternoons and all day Sundays. The equipment is still rather basic, but there are now three oxygen rebreathing units and one Aqua-Lung on the island. Thursday afternoon trips usually take us to a nearby bay and fishing is done from the shore. Improvised boxes floating on inflated innertubes hold the catch of the troop of fishermen, thus making the otherwise many trips to the ever more distant shore unnecessary.

On Sundays, usually one or two boats are employed and visits are made to more distant reefs or to one of the many submerged wrecks nearby. These are the days when the big jew fish are tussled with and almost invariably left defiantly shaking off seemingly harmless spears before entering their dark caves. It is on these trips, too, that twenty and thirty pound napjers and groupers are speared; four-foot barracudas and ten pound amber jacks are tracked and speared. One of the things we have learned here is the trick of attracting these curious fish by swimming away from them furiously, slashing the top water with your fins, then as they pursue, to dive and turn. One still must be an accurate shot, but the chances of hitting these fast fish are much enhanced in this way.

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thrill of the season. While fishing from a small sloop, we were surprised to see a huge dark piece of coral in the middle of a sandy patch of sea bottom. Closer inspection showed that the coral breathed. A four to five-hundred-pound Giant Sea Bass was quietly resting on the forty-foot deep floor. We had no power guns nor explosive heads, so before we began we were destined to lose our game of tug of war. However we gave it a try. The most powerful gun in the lot was a four rubber Champion. While all other spears bounced off the tough hide, we were finally able to lodge a double-barb behind his gill plate, then began the long pull. The steel cable on the spear was good for five hundred pounds, but we had purposely made one link in our equipment weaker — a nylon cord attachment which could be cut in emergencies — and after a thrilling fifteen minutes during which we used the auxiliary engine of the small boat to apply steady pressure on the stubborn and seemingly disinterested beast, this link broke, leaving the twisted spear and fish still on the bottom. After another three hours of fruitless and exhausting effort we were forced to leave due to darkness.

Another trip to this spot is planned in the near future and this time better and stronger equipment is going along. All of the group is anxious to hear, "Mahn, dat's a fish" as we pass by the startled spectators along the road with that giant strapped to the top of our car.

We hope to send you more information about spearfishing in GRENADA at a later date. Also we would welcome any correspondence from other fishermen giving advice or asking questions. —

Y'All Come . . . to the Skin Diving Jamboree August 15 at the Marineland of the Pacific, Portuguese Bend, California. There'll be a diving contest, prizes, and a \$1.00 dinner as well as myself and some of my model friends in our Rose Marie Reid swim suits. Only costs \$2.50. Come on.



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FIRST WHITE SEA BASS TAKEN ON MARAY

By MART TOGGWEILER

The first white sea bass of the season brought aboard the Maray at Catalina was speared by Ron Merker at Ship Rock, June 13, and weighed 31-lbs. The occasion was not notable for being spectacular, but was rather an excellent demonstration of the proper use of what I believe to be the best available equipment for this particular fish. Ron used a special arbalete type gun with power head, coupled with a plastic CO₂ float.

The actual sequence of events went something like this: Soon after dropping anchor at Ship Rock, one of the divers reported seeing a school of white sea bass off the northwest corner of the rock.

Ron assembled his gear and entered the water several minutes later, headed for the spot where the fish were seen and, sure enough, they were still there. He dove and got in a clean broadside shot at the nearest fish. The power head passed through the fish amidships, and neatly toggled on the other side. Being in deep water, the fish was allowed to tangle itself in kelp, then Ron inflated and released the CO₂ float in order to free his gun. (One short line connects the shaft to the gun, another long line connects the power head projectile to the float.) When the fish had

tired itself out pulling against the float and tangled kelp, Ron passed his gun to another diver and dove down, cutting the fish free of the kelp and brought it to the boat.

All the action took place within 100 feet of the boat and was an unusual example of equipment being used right and doing the job it was designed for. The only flaw being that Ron had failed to mount his underwater movie camera on the gun barrel, and thus missed getting a permanent record of the kill on 16mm Kodachrome. He vows this error will not occur again.

An ironical twist is that a free trip on the Maray has been offered for the first white sea bass of the season, but Ronnie, being a member of the crew, hardly needs this prize, so at this writing the offer still stands.

There is a school of thought among many divers that it is wrong to spear larger fish unless you can get a close range shot and are reasonably sure your equipment will penetrate and hold.

Another group believes that only a pole spear should be used against any fish. These are the purists of the sport and it is perhaps true that the maximum thrill the sport has to offer is theirs when a good-sized fish is landed with what only a few years ago was the standard weapon. But it must be pointed out that with such tackle many a wounded fish will escape to die later for the sole benefit of the sharks.

Still another group, undoubtedly the largest, want only to enjoy the sport in a more or less uninhibited manner, to marvel at the underwater scene and to shoot anything that gets



"Are you sure skin diving is legal?"

within range, except mammals, of course.

There is no simple answer to these different viewpoints except that moderation and common sense should be exercised.

Remember that public opinion is important to the future of the sport, but unfortunately, it is impossible for the public to actually SEE fish being speared. The public's opinions are formed by what is heard, read or shown on film, and again, unfortunately, this often leads to misunderstanding, because the true story is distorted in most cases.

Now the moral, as I see it, is that if you are interested *only* in the big ones, be bigged for them and pass everything else up. You'll go home skunked plenty of times, but when the big chance comes, the odds are on your side. On the other hand, many less methodical divers will prefer simpler equipment and the satisfaction of spearing less impressive fish more frequently. The object of any sport is that it should be enjoyed in the way that you want to enjoy it. □

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HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, HAWAII

DEPTH DEVILS

By BERT D. SEABOURN, JO3, USN

Much has been said about preserving the health and happiness of a person by having a hobby. Hawaii, with its ever pleasant climate, offers one of the newest and fastest growing hobbies or sports in the world, namely, spearfishing.

With this in mind, Chiefs Guy Rowell, Tom Anelli and Leonard Moody, confronted the squadron Executive Officer, Commander Reed K. Henderson, with a plan for organizing a club for spearfishermen among the personnel of Navy Air Transport Squadron Eight (VR-8). The "Exec", realizing the advantages a club could offer, readily offered a helping hand in getting the club a place where meetings could be held. Officers were then elected on a quarterly basis, with the club's first officers being: Lt. F. W. Walther, President; Leonard Moody, chief air-controlman; Vice-President; Bert D. Seabourn, journalist third class, Secretary; and Stan Peters, chief photographer, as Treasurer.

Civilians or personnel from other squadrons may be voted into the club, but only men from VR-8 may hold office. The club at present has over 60 members, and have selected "Depth Devils" as their official name.

The club's officers, not satisfied with the old trial-and-error method of aqua-lunging or taking chances with the poisonous fish that inhabit the South Pacific, arranged to have prominent guest speakers at most of their meetings. Two speakers recently heard were Doctor C. L. Waite, an expert on underwater physiology, of the Submarine Base Dispensary, and Vernon Brock, head of the Hawaiian Fish and Game Commission. The two speakers equally agreed that a good feature of this "get instructed" idea, is that you generally find out more in one day, than by the novice skin diver or aqua-lunger could find out over a period of time. What's more, they agreed, it's safer.

Safety and Conservation is the club motto, and failure to practice them can be a cause for a member to be voted from the club.

The Depth Devils have been challenged to a duel meet with the Coral Gypsies (a spear fishing club at Barbers Point) and the club is looking forward to the outing date, which has not been set as yet.

The majority of the club's activities include swimming, sight-seeing, and spearfishing for the thousands of different varieties of fish that Hawaii has to offer.

WASHINGTON

THE BEACHCOMBERS

By JOHN E. FRIARS

The club this month finds itself in the middle of a heavy schedule of planned activities. The group will participate extensively in Seattle Sea Fair Week events during the first part of August. Club members in full rig (rubber suits, lungs, masks, flippers, etc.) will make several "landings" with the Sea Fair Pirate crew, take part in Sea Fair parades, and will have a hand in the grand finale of Sea Fair Week, a full-scale water spectacle to be held on Lake Washington as a closing note to the week's festivities.

On the more serious side, the Club has been asked by the Gold Cup Committee and the local Coast Guard authorities to provide standby rescue crews for the National Gold Cup Races to be held on Lake Washington, Saturday, August 7. This marks the first time that skin divers have ever been used in this capacity at the Gold Cup Races. The Beachcombers will provide standby crews during the week for time trials, and a special crew on the day of the race.

Other activities anticipated within the next few weeks are skin diving exhibitions for the Seattle University Alumni group and for the Washington State Outdoor Sports Council. On July 25, Chuck Fendrich, Frank Wolff and John visibility ranging 50 feet and more on several Friars will be flown to the San Juan Islands for a special diving demonstration there.

During the past month, club members have taken part in one body-recovery attempt in the Skagit River, a number of minor salvage jobs, and a great deal of diving and spearfishing.

Diving conditions have been excellent with occasions, and rarely closing in less than 20 feet. Most of the bigger fish (20-lbs. and over)

in the immediate area are found beyond the 35 foot depth. Several of the group's divers are regularly taking big ling and cabezone in free dives without breathing units, at depths to 55 feet. The general diving range, however, is 25 to 40 feet, with many good-size fish being taken at these depths and smaller ones shallower.

Marilyn Wolff, wife of the Club's vice-president, is one of the more enthusiastic women divers. Marilyn recently speared a large skate which measured 5-ft. from snout to tail. The skate immediately attached itself with considerable suction to the sandy bottom, and Marilyn was forced to do a bit of prying with the butt end of her gun before working it loose and landing it. She has also taken ling cod and sole, using only a diving knife, and is an experienced lunger.

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ROBERT B. RICHMAN, vice-president of the Hartford YMCA Sub-Aquatic Clubs, holding a Tautog. Just under 10-lbs., this fish is the traditional chowder fish of the early Yankee settlers. This fish, which was speared off the Rhode Island coast, grows heavy and white around the lower jaw, when it reaches 5-lbs. or more, and is therefore called "white chin" when they reach this size. The fish is also called "Blackfish". Bob is one of our active spearfishermen, having started the sport in Guam and Australia during the second world war. Submitted by Stef Tjarda.

LOUISIANA

DIXIE DIVERS

By MRS. R. O. ALBA

This has really been a great month for the Dixie Divers Club. The trips have all been very exciting with good visibility on every trip. Most of our members have managed to make at least one or two trips to the Grand Isle rigs.

Working as a team, Roland Riviere, Jr. and Dick Overly landed a 150 pound Jewfish. Roland shot the fish and Dick landed him. We were all in the water as spectators and S-W-C-O-S-H Dick sails through the rig piling. I understand that he had quite a joyride. The water that day was the clearest so far this year. Until you were about 15 feet down the water was very murky but after that it was a blue paradise. The estimated visibility was 75 feet. You could see all the way across the Humble oil rig that we were diving at. We saw many large jack crevalle that day and 5 or 6 jewfish, plus the mangrove snappers and sheepshead that usually are there to greet us.

J. H. Bonck, Jr., landed a jack crevalle weighing nearly 20 pounds. Dick Alba got some great shots of Johnny shooting the fish, fighting it, etc. That is our first 8mm. role of underwater movies.

Quite a few members were out that day. Bill Blackwell, Rene Tricou, A. J. Cazalas, Orley Strane and Charlie Doh were on the 'Shark', and on the 'Skin Diver' were Mr. and Mrs. Roland Riviere, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Dick Alba, Johnny Bonck, Jr. and his sister-in-law, Nanette Gatti. Nanette is the plucky gal who gave such a whopper of a demonstration at the New Orleans HOME SHOW at our Municipal Auditorium. The Roland Riviere's, Jr. and Sr. had a booth for their Sporting Goods Store with a 6 foot deep, 6 foot diameter tank in which divers gave demonstrations on the diving equipment of today. A. Roy Smith, Johnny Bonck, Jr., Dick Alba, and Albert Reisz all had such a great time I think they would gladly do it again.



DIXIE DIVER Roland Riviere, Jr. landing a spotted jewfish shot at 55 feet, Peito Rigs, Louisiana.

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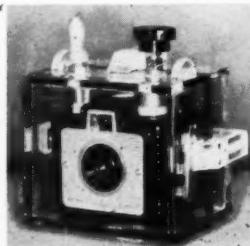


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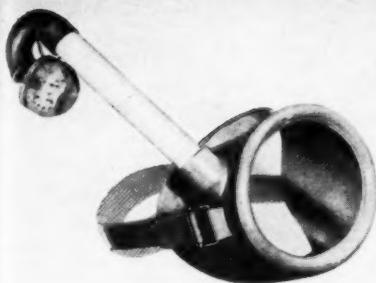
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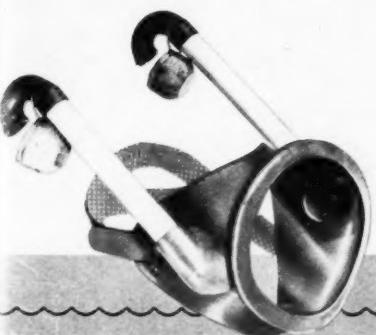
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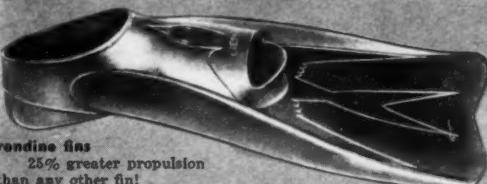
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A SMALL PORTION of the VR-8 Navy Depth Devils club. Club members received classroom and pool instruction on the use of the lung. Photo by R. C. Harrison, PHAN, USN.



A QUIET INTERLUDE in the finny lives of two working members of the Long Island Dolphins, Hal Reiff (left) and Bob Molyneux, shown here in Bayville, Long Island waters, June 1954.

MAINE

COAST OF MAINE NEPTUNES By DON LAMONT

Last month we mentioned a table on cold water survival which we considered vital information that should be made known to all skin divers. The United States Naval Institute has kindly granted its permission for us to promulgate this table, taken from an excellent article, appearing in the October, 1953, issue of the U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, entitled "Survival at Sea" by Commander E. L. E. Ritson, USN, copyright 1953 by the U.S. Naval Institute.

Water Temperature Degrees (F)	Approximate time to Exhaustion or unconsciousness (hours)	Death (hours)
32	1/4	1/4-1 1/2
50	1/2-1	1-2
60	2-4	6-8
70	3-7	?
80	12	relatively safe

Considering that the water temperature here in Maine seldom rises above 55 degrees in the summer months, this really made us sit up and take notice. Many of our newer members feel that the first item of equipment they need after acquiring flippers and mask is a spear gun or a lung. However, they are quickly convinced that a cold-water suit is a must after they are in the water a few minutes and are shaking so hard they couldn't even aim a spear gun if they had one.

Commander Ritson goes on to state in his article, "The table makes clear that protection from exposure is the first requirement, transcending in importance all other considerations," to which we of the Neptunes wholeheartedly agree. To be caught in a rip or offshore current without a rubber suit or some sort of protective clothing in this area, would be a very serious predicament.

Thanks to the foresight of one of the merchants in this area, we think all of our members—now totaling 12—will soon be equipped with cold-water suits. He has offered our members a plan of paying ten per cent down, with the balance spread out over a year, with no interest or carrying charge on any item of underwater equipment. This is not a lay-away plan either. The buyer takes possession upon payment of the ten per cent.

We had expected to present some data on fish taken by our group to date, but conditions have been far from ideal. The weather is improving steadily, however, and perhaps the months of July and August will provide some clear water. We know there are big fish up here somewhere. In the meanwhile, we are content to spear and eat flounders and pollock, both of which are excellent eating fish, fried or in a chowder.

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CALIFORNIA THE BARBS

By JACK WRIGHT

For those of you who are interested in what the Carmel area offers in the way of underwater game, this photograph should be of interest. It is of the largest of two octopi speared recently off Carmel Meadows by Ray Miser and Stuart Brolli of **The Barbs**. This one was taken with an Arbolete in about 30 feet of water by Ray while wearing a lung. The torn tentacles visible in the picture are evidence of its reluctance to leave the crevice where it retreated after being speared. On the beach, it measured 9-ft. and weighed 36-lbs. The picture was snapped by a cooperative member of the **Aqua Knights** of San Francisco.

The Barbs would like to extend an invitation to skin divers generally to enter the Central California Championships Meet being staged August 15 on the magnificent 17-Mile Drive at Carmel. Excellent fishing is anticipated. Further information may be had from Dave Campbell, Chairman, 168 South 26th Street, San Jose 27, Calif. □



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RAY MISER and Stuart Brolli, members of the Barbs, San Jose, Calif., with the reluctant octopus, 9-ft., 36-lbs.

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CALIFORNIA

Short Lobsters Today — No Lobsters Tomorrow

The primary reason against using purse seine nets in harvesting fish is that no allowance is made for the escape of sufficient breeding stock. This reasoning carries over into the lobster fishery and the law forbids the taking of short or undersize lobsters. About 50 years ago the Fish and Game Commission recommended a minimum size of nine and one half inches as a legal lobster. Ten years later the lobster situation became so bad that the lobster fishery was completely closed for two years. Incidentally, this was some time BEFORE the advent of skin diving. The increase in the lobster population resulting from the complete closure was so great that after the two year rest period the market was so oversupplied that hundreds of TONS of lobster were wasted. Just think of it, so many lobsters that the commercial fishermen could not find a large enough market; this of course was about 1915. About 1917 the 10½ inch length was established. Since that time our lobster production has remained relatively stable at from 200,000 to 700,000 pounds, confirming the wisdom of this minimum size.

The increasing pressure on the lobster fishery in recent years has brought the percentage of short lobsters taken up to almost 50 percent of the total catch. Many commercial lobster fishermen will admit that they could not stay in business if they did not take "shorts". They will stay in business as long as they can make money at it. They know that they will ruin the fishery but contend that if they as individuals don't do it someone else will. This kind of

thinking must be ELIMINATED.

The enforcement division of the Fish and Game has done all it could to stop this growing piracy. They have issued many citations. The cases are tried in the Municipal Courts where frequently the Judges and Probation Officers were not aware of the seriousness of the offense or made the mistake of thinking that a fine alone was sufficient penalty. Of course these fines were written off as business operating expenses. One ton of "shorts" would pay two maximum fines and maximum fines were seldom imposed.

What can you do about this situation?

As individuals—very little—probably not any more than any individual has been able to do in the past, i.e. VERY LITTLE. However, the least you can do is to send in your dollar for your O.F.P.A. membership.

As a club you can become a part of the organized opposition to these practices. The mass weight of opinion can put a stop to the taking of shorts. Join club, affiliate your club with O.F.P.A. (club affiliation with O.F.P.A. carries no financial obligation). Bring your club into the Council of Diving Clubs.

The war will consist of two general phases. The long range plan is new legislation to be proposed by the Council. The IMMEDIATE plan is to see that our present laws are adequately enforced and sufficient deterrent penalty imposed.

The West Los Angeles Neptunes have made several proposals to the Legislative Committee of the Council and hopes that the committee will think them worthy of consideration by the member clubs.

The general idea of these proposals are as follows:

1. Lobster traps should be of approved design to allow "shorts" to escape. (The Bureau of Marine Fisheries and the Fish and Game Dept. have finished the research and testing and have

a design that they think will do the job.)

2. Lobsters to be taken COMMERCIALLY by trap only. (This could possibly be the most controversial issue we are facing. Will you raise this question at your club and let me know how many for and how many against and the REASONS. I will report the results of the mail received in a future article.) Or give me your personal opinion.

3. Violators of the Fish and Game Code convicted of the SECOND offense should become ineligible for a license, commercial or sport. (Similar to the Habitual Criminal Act that is used to put criminals away for life, or the law that bars the shooter in a hunting accident from obtaining a hunting license.)

4. Abalone should be removed from the sale list. (Serious depletion and flagrant violations of the commercials brings this up for consideration.)

5. A research program should be initiated to determine the amount of fishery the lobster can maintain and then PUT LIMITS ON COMMERCIAL FISHING.

Have you ever wondered why no attempt has been made to place LIMITS on commercial fishermen? Who but a sport fisherman would think of such a thing? Until now the sportsmen have never been organized well enough to even hope to do the job.

The immediate phase of the war to see that our present laws are adequately enforced and sufficient deterrent penalty imposed can be carried out by a club or even an individual. Whenever you hear, either from your local newspaper or F. & G. Warden of a citation involving the taking of "shorts" GET INTO ACTION.

Find out which court the case will be tried in and make sure that the Judge and Probation Officer are informed of the serious conditions involved. As an example in the "Lamio" case 1500 short lobsters, 750 of them approximately should be females that could have spawned 100,000 eggs this summer (75,000,000, seventy-five million eggs). A letter should be written to the Probation Officer pointing out the depleted lobster situation. Show the complete disregard of the monetary fines observed among commercial fishermen. Ask that he recommend the maximum penalty INCLUDING THE JAIL SENTENCE to fit the case.

Two cases have been given this treatment. The Lamio case in Santa Monica drew a \$500 fine, 90 days jail, three years probation dependent on no further violations. This was a second offense. He has recently disposed of his interests on Santa Monica Pier and reportedly intends to leave the state upon his release. The Brooks Hurst case in San Pedro received a \$500 fine, fifteen days in jail, two years probation if no further violations.

Thank you for your letters in response to my recent articles. I have tried to answer them and give your names to Council committee chairmen who need your help. Please let me know how you feel about lobster fishing COMMERCIALLY in traps only question.

Johnny Logan, O.F.P.A. Director for skin divers, c/o Ocean Fish Protective Association, P. O. Box 15851, Crenshaw Station, Los Angeles 8, California. >>

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UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Continued from Page 20)

Oceanography at La Jolla, Calif. From there the material is returned to the Secretary in Los Angeles and correlated with similar species from other countries. Finally a Certificate of Record is signed by the President, Vice-President and Chairman of the Sports Committee and mailed to the record holder. This process takes from four months to sometimes more than a year in case insufficient material to support identification of the species.

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The National Championships were first organized with ideas drawn from the first competition between the above-named clubs. All of the United States clubs were invited to write in their ideas or send a representative to a meeting in August, 1950, at Los Angeles. Tentative rules were reviewed, some changed and all voted upon by five skin diving clubs, which constituted a majority of the nine clubs known to exist in the nation at that time.

When work was started on the East Coast Championships in October, 1952, to select a team for the Nationals, the time was indicated for the formation of the representative National Association, as originally planned. In June, 1953, a temporary committee was organized to draft plans for a National organization. Now, in 1954 the National organization is ready to accept memberships from the regional organizations and will take over the supervision of the National Championships.

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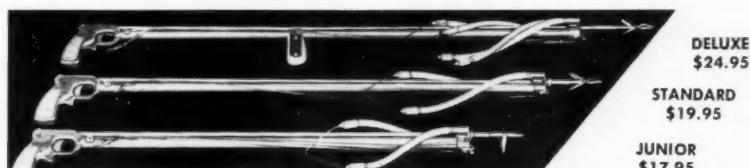
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JACKSONVILLE UNDERWATER RESCUE SQUAD

By L. M. NEWKIRK

In the interest of public service we skin-divers of Jacksonville have recently formed an underwater rescue squad. Our plan is the close cooperation with local authorities in any sort of situation wherein the unique skills and abilities of underwater skin divers may be utilized.

It is our hope that we skin divers, using Aqua-Lungs if required by the nature of the emergency, can render some public service to our community in the saving of human life. To accomplish this end we set about to organize ourselves, disseminate information to the public and secure the cooperation of the local authorities in order that we might have prompt information of any assistance required.

Already we feel that we have rendered such service to the community. Recently an automobile crashed through the railing of a bridge and was submerged in some thirty-five feet of water. This happened at night when normal rescue and salvage operations could not be followed. One of our members, James Sweat, by the use of an Aqua-Lung, tied a cable to the car and recovered the body of the driver of the car from the submerged wreck. Although it was impossible to save life in this instance, certainly the bereavement of the next of kin was relieved in some measure by the prompt recovery of the body of their loved one.

We have taken the following steps for the formulation of rescue procedures after several conferences with The Honorable Haydon Burns, Mayor of the City of Jacksonville, and Chief F. C. Kelly of the Jacksonville Fire Department.

Five men in the City of Jacksonville were selected for their skill and strategic locations within the City. Each of these men will at all times strive to maintain their Aqua-Lung and other rescue equipment in a status of immediate availability. In the event of an emergency, the chief of the Jacksonville Fire Department will be in receipt of information and will then call one or more of the key men, giving him the information. From this point the key man will notify other key men who will attempt to get their teams to the scene of the emergency in the least possible time.

We believe that we have secured the means and organization to assist our fellow man. ☺



DOLPHIN Leonard (Danny) Danison with 34½-lb. Yellowtail speared at Catalina Island. Danny has been skin diving only nine months and has made many of the old timers sit up and take notice. He is sure to dive for the DOLPHINS in the 1955 PFC Championships if his club members can keep him off that Oregon farm.

FISH STORY

by Eugenia J. Walker

*My name is Monroe, the Minnow
I'm a fish who was born to swim.
A fluffy clown in waters, I thought
Until I ran into "him".*

*Fella Minnies, you should have seen it
'Twas nearly six feet long,
It had no fins, but big webbed feet
And was singing a bubble-y song.
I took off out in front of it
To take a closer look
Never saw a fish wearing rubber tubes
In our fish-fairy-tale book.*

*I bumped my nose on a glassed-in face
And looked at an eye in that "cave"
And this strange creature winked at me
While it bubbled, big and brave.*

*"That was a frogman, Monroe dear",
But Mom Minnie looked perplexed,
As she tucked me into my sandy bed, with
"What will those humans think of next?"*

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CALIFORNIA

DAVEY JONES RAIDERS

By MARIE DICARLO

Another woman has joined the ranks of the D.J.R.'s to make the number total three fearless females. Adrienne Elliott joined up along with seven male members. They include Frank Sisco, Art Fisher (no relation whatsoever to Mel), Milton (Uncle Miltie) Finnely, John (Whitey) Partin, Arthur (Babe) Valenzuela, Gene Jesse and Bill Qualls.

We took a one day daring dart across the channel to Catalina over the 4th of July. Most of the new members traversed the trying trip with the old hands. We hit Goat Harbor. The water wasn't so clear as Catalina usually is... but the warmth made up for it. 'Just like climbing in your own bath tub at home.'

It wasn't more than 10 minutes after the divers had dropped over the side when Freddie Pulica raised a U shaped arb spear over his head and yelled across the water . . . '&*\$? (I just missed pulling in a 300 pounder!) . . . every diver on board splashed over. Just a couple of minutes after everyone had swam to Fred's side, one of the guests about 200 feet away dived into the same grouper and pounded two spears from his home made CO2 gun off it. The dandy fish took off for parts unknown.

Fred came aboard to fix up a special rig of long line and tubs to tow the monster after he speared it (optimistic soul)! The strongest gun on board was a double arb. Fred said that his shaft had sunk into the fish about a foot and it began towing him . . . he just started to take the ride when the great grouper rolled over and bent the shaft, tearing himself free.

The Raiders took to their lungs trying to locate the illusive denizen . . . but to no avail. A couple smaller grouper were spotted after the boys had removed their lungs . . . but they were in about 75 feet of water. (We had more nose bleeds in the club that day.) The last grouper seen was by your writer. I was diving off the flying deck and doing a few fancy strokes in the water before the homeward journey, when without my glass I saw something mighty big about 15-ft. below me . . . moving! I made the ladder of the boat in about one split second . . . about the time I decided to dive off the other side (or consider it, anyway) someone shouted that the grouper had come to us . . . and there it was—down in the shadow of the boat swimming toward deep water. The deck was cleared immediately. As before, the monster made his get away . . . 'till another day (we hope!) ▶

CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SKIN DIVERS

By MILLIE JOHNSON

We're just bursting with pride over our team (Bud Abernathy, Chuck Sturgill and Bob Hartley) getting first prize for the largest catch in the National elimination contest held at Cabrillo Beach last month.

Incidentally, Chuck also was awarded first prize (Semana Nautica Trophy) at the third annual abalone divers meet held at Santa Barbara last month. Chuck brought in the first legal size ab and bettered it by five minutes last year's record of 26 minutes.

Over the three-day holiday of the 4th, a number of our club members went to Ensenada. Reports are that the halibut were really plentiful, the water fine and everyone had good fishing and lots of fun. ▶

WISCONSIN

MID-WEST AMPHIBIANS

By FRED M. ROBERTS

Ah, the heat of the summer! The heavy rains of June slowed the club's outside activities, but July looks like a big month.

Every Sunday the group meets and really makes a day of it at one of the many excellent lakes in our locality. Even the gals are getting in the swim, oh happy day.

Diving skill and general water safety mindedness has been growing by leaps and bounds. Some of our members are doing a lot of swimming near the century foot mark in depth.

The club is spearheading an extensive educational program on swimming and diving. This program will include a very thorough water safety and life saving training course this fall in conjunction with the local American Red Cross. This training will qualify all graduates as life guards as well as instructors in life saving.

July 7 we had our regular monthly meeting. The diving calendar for July and August was set up. The meeting also aired our ideas for our water safety program. Entertainment will feature a very well known local personality, Max Gene Nohl, who will show underwater movies.

The Amphibians are open for membership. Any unattached skin divers in our locality are invited to write to us for information. Our address is: P.O. Box 1524, Milwaukee 1, Wisc.

At our May meeting new officers were elected and a permanent meeting date established. The officers are as follows: President, Fred Roberts; vice-president, Chuck Walker; secretary, Jean Walker; treasurer, Carol Zera. We now meet the first Wednesday of each month for business and just about anytime for our sport. ▶

CALIFORNIA

LONG BEACH JR. NEPTUNES

By FRANK GREENO

Being of sound mind and body, two members and three prospective members of the Jr. Neptunes left Long Beach early Monday morning for Corona. Reaching our destination at about 9:30 o'clock, we got our gear together and gayfully skipped down the trail to the beach. One of the brave fellows hurriedly rushed to the water but came back with a blue tint to his face. The water wasn't very cold, but then again it wasn't what you might call warm. As for the water being clear, you could see about 12 to 15 feet.

During the day all of the fellows dived around the reef about 3 to 5 minutes swimming time off shore. Although the fish were scarce, some of the guys bagged a few good catches (for that day they were good). At the end of the day when we totaled up the weight of the fish caught, 12 lbs. had been speared. The heaviest catch of the day was a 4½-lb. moray eel. Other fish taken were a female sheepshead, calico bass, and a spotfin croaker weighing 2-lbs. Smaller bass and perch were also taken. All in all the day of diving turned out to be a real ball even though no real big fish were taken.

The club was officially approved by the L.A. and L.B. Neptunes in the early part of 1953 and was christened the Long Beach Jr. Neptunes. Since that time we have had very successful diving. At the present we have about 10 active members and 4 prospective members. The club meets on the first Thursday of every month during the winter and the first and third Thursdays of every month during the summer. ▶

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO AREA DIVERS AND SKIN DIVERS

By GEORGE SATNESS

Weather here has been of various moods but on the whole it has been pretty nice most of the time. Water around the Chicago area has been good and clear except for short periods and both bottom foliage and fish are plentiful in the underwater world at this time.

For the benefit of aqua-lungers and skin divers in Illinois, I will quote directly from the Illinois Fish and Game Codes, which state as follows: "Article III, Sec. 25.11 . . . it shall be unlawful to take any of the species of fish protected by this act by means of pitchfork, bow and arrow device, fish spear, or gig, except that carp, sucker, gar, buffalo and dogfish may be taken by means of a pitchfork, bow and arrow device, spear or gig. It shall be lawful to take the above mentioned species only between the dates of May 1 to September 1 in the northern zone; April 1 to September 1 in the Central zone and March 15 to September 1 in the southern zone, all dates inclusive, and then only between the hours from sunrise to sunset . . ."

Several of the Chicago area Frogmen were out giving a helping hand to Sam Leone and his men during the June 26 disastrous "seiche" or "tidal wave". A pat on the back to Sam for his able direction in the recovery operations. ▶

CALIFORNIA

SEA LANCERS OF SANTA MONICA

By GENE DANIELS

Ex-West Los Angeles Neptunes—boy, what a mouthful, at any rate, that's us, the Sea Lancers of Santa Monica. Following the last charter trip to Catalina, a number of what we like to refer to as "prospective members" thought they had joined a "weback" drive. After a rather unique trip on a rather unique boat, the Catalina kelp beds were invaded with what enthusiasm was left. A rather dampened good time was had by all, especially by Council President Bill Barada, who found a big white sea bass which, unfortunately, had somebody else's name on it. At least it was exciting while it lasted. Art Harris rang the bell for a really big ray and claimed the trophy on the grounds that he planned on eating the wings. Luckily somebody remembered an old rule that sharks and rays count $\frac{1}{2}$ point per pound toward a club trophy and he was able to put down his fork and knife. Our next membership meeting will have the awarding of his hard won trophy. This may be Art's last meeting for a while as both he and "whaler" Ned Dobson plan on swimming with Uncle Sam for a while.

Our Crippled Carpenter, John Hall, finally shed his cast like all good bugs should and has rejoined the ranks. Welcome back.

New member Al Shirk is real busy these days dusting off his magic wand for the SKIN DIVERS JAMBOREE on August 15 at Marineland. This boy is a real whiz with the "abacadabra" routine. Better get tickets from your club delegates or at any leading skin diving store. The kids especially are really going to love this skin diving magician.

Gary Hall has finally shed his rubber suit for the summer and immediately joined the ranks of the more rugged type of skin diver! How about some of the other officers of the club following his sterling example? Hmmmm.

There haven't been any more encounters with the "thing" we told you about last month. I imagine that some of you Palos Verdes divers may be skeptical, but we heard rumors that some other clubs also sighted it. We are beginning to think it might be something that escaped from the new Marineland, as it was in that area. ▶

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